

U.S. court orders Demjanjuk case reopened

CINCINNATI, Ohio (R) — A federal appeals court on Friday reopened the case of John Demjanjuk, saying the U.S. government may have erred in ordering him extradited to Israel to face charges that he was a Nazi camp guard. "Our previous study of the record and numerous press reports and articles in the United States indicate that the extradition warrant ... may have been improvidently issued because it was based on erroneous information," Chief Judge Gilbert Merritt of the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals said in a brief order. Demjanjuk, 72, of Cleveland, was extradited from the United States in 1986. He was sentenced to death in Israel in 1988 after five survivors of the Treblinka camp identified him during his trial as a guard nicknamed "Ivan the Terrible." Lawyers for the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk are now before Israel's supreme court appealing the conviction on the basis of newly uncovered sworn statements made by 37 Treblinka guards decades ago. Demjanjuk's lawyers say the statements prove that a guard named Ivan Marchenko, and not Demjanjuk, operated the gas chambers at Treblinka.

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Tunisia: Libya crisis can be resolved

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali said on Friday he still hoped for a settlement to Libya's conflict with the West over the Lockerbie bombing. "The efforts expended until now, (even) if they have not yet succeeded, enable us to foresee a satisfactory way out," Mr. Ben Ali said in an interview with Reuters. But it was mainly up to the involved parties to resolve the dispute, which led to sanctions being imposed on Libya for its refusal to surrender to Britain or the United States two men suspected of the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland. "It is advisable for each (party) to assume clearly its responsibilities and it is up to the main involved parties to take the initiatives (that are) the most pertinent," said Mr. Ben Ali, whose country tried to mediate in the row. Libyan authorities are expected to have their final say in mid-month to the demand by Washington and London that the two suspects stand trial in the U.S. or Scotland for the bombing. Western countries say the ball is now in Libya's court in order to avoid further U.N. Security Council sanctions. Libya has been under U.N. air and arms-sales embargoes since April 15.

Rabin suggests Golan deal; polls say Labour losing edge

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Labour Party leader Yitzhak Rabin said on Friday, the 25th anniversary of the 1967 war, that he would be willing to return some of the occupied Golan Heights to Syria. Mr. Rabin, who led the Israeli army in 1967 and hopes to unseat Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in the June 23 national election, said his determination to keep Israeli troops on the strategic plateau did not preclude territorial compromise. "Even in peace we will not come down from the Golan Heights," Mr. Rabin said in an interview in the daily Al Hamishmar. "In my eyes, the Golan Heights from the standpoint of territory and topography is vital to the security of Israel." "That doesn't mean we are stuck there on every centimetre," Mr. Rabin said, pointing to the 1974 troop disengagement agreement between Syria and Israel that set the present lines on the Golan Heights. "We gave up a kilometre and a half or two and created a situation whereby for 17 years, since 1975, this has been the quietest sector ... more than the peace border with Egypt, and certainly there is no comparison with the Lebanese border and even the Jordanian," he said. Labour has used Mr. Rabin, a former defence minister as well as army chief of staff, to try to project an image of toughness as well as a willingness to engage in

(Continued on page 5)

Spain probes detained Syrian arms dealer's links

MADRID (Agencies) — Spanish police held Syrian arms dealer Monzer Al Kassir incommunicado on Friday while probing his alleged links with international terrorism, including the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Scotland. High Court Judge Baltasar Garzon, one of Spain's most prominent investigating judges in charge of the long-running probe, imposed a news blackout on details of the case. Mr. Garzon was returning to Madrid on Friday from the southern coast resort of Marbella where he has been supervising a police search of a Palestinian mansion owned by Mr. Kassir. Mr. Kassir, 46, described by police sources as one of the world's biggest arms dealers, was arrested at Madrid airport on Wednesday night as he entered Spain on an Argentine passport. Held with him were Beirut-born Nabil Olati Dabul, who has Spanish nationality, and Chilean-born Yamil Edgardo Badich, who holds a Chilean and two Syrian passports. A police statement on Thursday said the arrests were in connection with suspected falsification of documents, illegal trafficking in vehicles, illegal possession of arms and international terrorism. Mr. Kassir was named in a report published in April in the U.S. news magazine Time as being behind the bombing of the Pan Am Jumbo over the Scottish town of Lockerbie which killed 270. Mr. Kassir denied the report. "The story in the magazine in my opinion is true. But they got the name wrong," he told French television in an interview last month. He said he was an arms merchant but denied illegal dealings. Interior Ministry spokesman Antonio Nevado said Judge Garzon placed a one-month secrecy order on the case of Mr. Kassir. Time reported in April that Mr. Kassir had planted the suitcase bomb on the Pan Am jet in Frankfurt. (Continued on page 5)

Kabul truce collapses; factional fighting resumes

KABUL (Agencies) — Another ceasefire between two rival rebel factions collapsed Friday despite the intervention of forces loyal to the Islamic caretaker government. The people whose homes are being hit by rockets and their relatives being killed are telling the Mujahadeen, "ever since you came to Kabul, there's been nothing but fighting and bloodshed." They say this is not jihad and they are right," Sayed Hasan, a Shiite, said after praying at the main Shiite mosque. Residents in the predominantly Shiite neighbourhoods also accused Sunni rebels of looting shops and houses, killing some of their prisoners, plucking out the eyes of wounded guerrillas and burning bodies. Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud deployed loyal rebel militia forces to the battle zones, but they came under fire. Later Mr. Masoud dispatched a 12-member security committee from all parties to go to the battle zones to stamp out the trouble. The truce between the two factions collapsed Friday despite the intervention of forces loyal to the Islamic caretaker government. At least 100 people have been killed, 400 wounded and nearly 1,000 people have disappeared in four days of fighting between the two groups. A fist-fight between two sentries broke the ceasefire. The rival forces lobbed rockets and mortars in densely populated areas of Kabul, the Afghan capital. Rockets slammed into two religious schools and a business school, igniting flames and killing passersby. Classes were suspended earlier this week because of the fighting. Missiles also fell on a house in

EC says Danes have 7 months to change minds

LISBON (R) — Denmark has until the end of the year to change its mind about the Maastricht Treaty on closer European union, Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva said on Friday. Mr. Cavaco Silva, whose country holds the rotating European Community (EC) presidency, said it was up to the Danes to solve the problems created by their "no" vote in Tuesday's referendum on the Maastricht accord. The treaty, creating closer political and economic links between the 12 EC states, is due to be ratified by the end of this year. "Denmark still has seven months ahead. Seven months is a long time to think about what it wants to do," Mr. Cavaco Silva told a news conference. "The other member states are determined to pursue the goal of European union without deviation from the path established." The decision of EC foreign ministers in Oslo on Thursday to go ahead with ratification had put the ball firmly in Denmark's court, he said. Six Christian Democrat leaders representing half of the EC's governments were to debate the repercussions of Denmark's shock referendum result at regular talks in Brussels Friday. The twice-yearly meeting, which is meant to prepare for the community's Lisbon summit on June 26-27, will provide a top-level political forum to explore the consequences of the "no" vote for the future of European union. Diplomats said any statement by the meeting was sure to reinforce determination expressed by community foreign ministers at Oslo on Thursday to press ahead to ratify the Maastricht Treaty while leaving the door open for Denmark.

Arafat leaves hospital, begins 10 days of rest

By Mariam M. Shalhin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was discharged from hospital Friday after recovering from a brain surgery. As he emerged from the Royal Wing of the King Hussein Medical Centre, Mr. Arafat, accompanied by His Majesty King Hussein and Palestinian and Jordanian officials, expressed his thanks for the hospitality and care that he had received from King Hussein and staff at the medical centre. "I would like to thank my brother King Hussein for his brotherly concern and care for me throughout my ordeal," Mr. Arafat said before turning to King Hussein and giving him a big hug in front of the cameras. "I thank God, King Hussein and the staff at the medical centre for my stable condition," Mr. Arafat told the press in English. The "outstanding medical treatment" he received, Mr. Arafat said, was a source of pride for "our Arab nation, because you can buy equipment and you can construct a building, but you cannot buy or construct a human being."

"This miracle was made possible by Jordan and by King Hussein — the building of a human being." Addressing the people of Jordan and Palestine, Mr. Arafat said: "We will continue our march together; we are on a date with dawn and victory is ours."

King Hussein sat Mr. Arafat next to him in his silver Mercedes Benz and drove him to the Hashemiyeh Palace, where President Arafat is expected to rest for 10 days before resuming his normal heavy work load schedule. Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim said that a PLO Executive Committee meeting will, in all likelihood, take place today. The Committee is expected to decide on foreign policy issues vis-a-vis the Middle East peace process.

The foreign ministers of Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestine are scheduled to meet Saturday afternoon to decide on the time frame of the sixth round of bilateral talks with Israel.

Mr. Arafat, whose right eye looked badly bruised, smiled constantly for reporters. PLO official (Continued on page 5)

Arabs meet in Amman to assess peace process

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Foreign ministers representing the four Arab parties involved in bilateral talks with Israel met in Amman today to reassess the Middle East peace process against the backdrop of increased tension over Israel's continued clampdown against Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip and air raids on South Lebanon.

The foreign ministers of Jordan, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon will discuss how to improve coordination in the next stage of the peace process.

The four Arab parties still differ over multilateral talks, which discuss regional economic and security arrangements, as Syria and Lebanon insist on boycotting the talks until concrete progress was achieved at the bilateral negotiations that address Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

Although the Amman meeting is expected to conclude with a call on the U.S. and the international community, to pressure Israel to lift the siege

imposed on the occupied Gaza Strip and to halt attacks against Lebanon, the Arab side will not take any drastic steps that will jeopardise the peace process.

The Israeli acts of violence against Arabs, as viewed by Arab officials, are aimed at gaining votes for the ruling party in the upcoming elections, and forcing the Arabs, namely Syria and the Palestinians, to withdraw from the peace process. Syrian and Palestinian officials, including Syrian President Hafez Al Assad himself, have repeatedly indicated that Israel would not succeed in its attempts to pressure Arabs into pulling out from the peace talks.

But political observers fear that Arab self-restraint could only encourage Israel to continue creating new realities on the ground that will undermine the negotiating position once the talks resume.

A major factor dictating the evidently restrained Arab reaction is that the Arab parties do not want to take a stand that

state, which remains technically at war with most Arab countries. In the case of Coke, Jordan was one of the last Arab holdouts. Some newspapers carried advertisements for sale of the beverage, which carried a tag of 390 fils per can.

After a 21-year ban, the Atlanta-based soft drink giant was unofficially removed in 1989 from the list of hundreds of companies drawn up by the Damascus-based Arab League Boycott Office, then officially struck off a year ago.

Even before then, Coca-Cola was widely available in Gulf countries and some of them had Coke bottling plants. The Coke that suddenly arrived in Jordan was ordered from a canner in the United Arab Emirates.

In Saudi Arabia, Coca-Cola even sponsored a sporting event. U.S. motor giant Ford recently returned to the Arab market after



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat kisses His Majesty King Hussein as he leaves the King Hussein Medical Centre five days after a brain surgery (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

U.S. resists treaty on endangered species

RIO DE JANEIRO (Agencies) — The U.S. government has rebuffed last-ditch efforts to win its approval for a treaty protecting endangered plants and animals, calling proposed changes in the document's language too superficial.

Signing of the biodiversity treaty, a key document of the Earth Summit, was to begin Friday. Another key document, a global warming treaty, was made available for signing Thursday.

Friday's activities began with the ceremonial planting of 11 Brazilian seedlings, a now-rare tree that gave Brazil its name. President Fernando Collor de Mello and Sweden's King Carl Gustaf joined schoolchildren to plant the trees on the lawn of the Riocentro Convention Centre, where the summit is being held.

An official in the government of U.S. President George Bush told the Associated Press late Thursday that the Brazilians had offered to make "cosmetic changes" to the biodiversity treaty to win U.S. support.

"The U.S. stuck to its guns" because the Brazilian suggestions did not address fundamental U.S. concerns, said the official, who spoke on condition he remain anonymous.

In a gesture that could blunt some criticism of U.S. foot dragging on summit agreements, chief U.S. delegate William K. Reilly announced Thursday that the U.S. Forest Service would end clear-cutting as standard policy in U.S. national forests.

The biodiversity treaty provides for the protection of endangered and threatened animals and plants. It also calls for industrialised countries to compensate developing nations for resources used to make commercial products.

Israel jets attack Palestinian centre

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli jet fighters and helicopter gunships blasted a Palestinian centre at the refugee camp of 'Ain Al Hilweh on the outskirts of this southern port city in two separate strikes Friday, police said.

They said six people were wounded in the second attack by two jet fighters at 8:40 a.m. (0540 GMT) on a house used to distribute social services to camp residents, according to police.

Security sources said the centre was used by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

Two PFLP-GC guerrillas and four Palestinian civilians were wounded and a single-storey sports club was destroyed in the base, the sources said.

Lebanese army anti-aircraft guns fired on the planes and black smoke billowed over 'Ain Al Hilweh.

"The planes fired two rockets but one of them failed to ex-

plode," a witness said. An Israeli military statement said the air force raided a PFLP-GC "terrorist post" and all planes returned safely to base.

Witnesses said Israeli planes also flew over Beirut, breaking the sound barrier.

On Thursday, Israeli helicopter gunships fired on a PFLP-GC position in a camp near the southern port of Tyre, 20 kilometres north of the Israeli border, wounding two guerrillas.

Friday's air strike was the 11th into Lebanon in 16 days — one of the most concentrated air campaigns by Israel in such a short period since it invaded Lebanon in 1982.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati pledged Iran's continued support on Wednesday for Lebanese and Palestinian guerrillas fighting to try to force Israeli troops to pull out of a 15-kilometre border strip they hold in South Lebanon.

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Coke is back in one of last Arab holdouts

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Jordanians are flocking into the capital's largest supermarket to snap up 12-packs of Coca-Cola after it went on sale for the first time since an anti-Israeli boycott on the soda was lifted a year ago.

"Does that taste like the real Coca-Cola?" U.S.-educated customer Bassam Tawel asked the cashier at Safeway stores. "I can't believe that we finally have it on the market."

The sudden appearance of the popular fizzy drink drew attention to the continued, 41-year-old Arab boycott of companies that trade with Israel or have business interests there.

The boycott was begun to discourage foreign companies from doing business with the Jewish

the Arab League lifted its boycott — and the Gulf market is now taking 31 per cent of Ford's export output in North America.

Karait stepped out of Arab ranks after its liberation by buying supplies from blacklisted companies, pleading the urgent need for supplies to help with post-war reconstruction.

Overall, the boycott remains in place even if it is looking tattered in places.

In the post-Gulf war peace moves in the Middle East, the boycott has even become a bargaining chip.

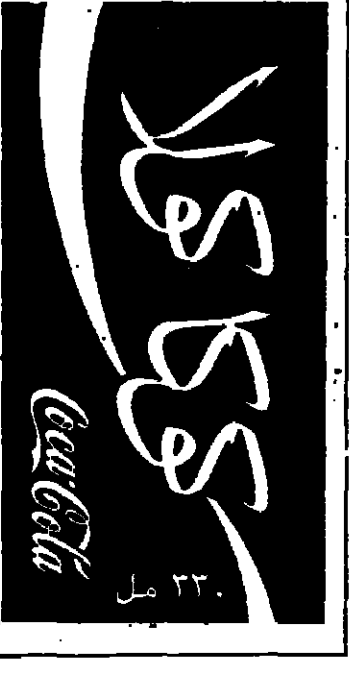
U.S. Secretary of State James Baker urged Arab nations to end the boycott, and Saudi Arabia responded by offering to suspend it in return for a halt to Jewish settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories. Jordan reportedly made a similar offer.

The United States considers the boycott to be illegal and American companies that honour it by operating in Arab countries while refusing to deal with Israel stand to lose some U.S. tax benefits, such as the foreign tax credit.

But congressional investigators said last year, after surveying some 40 companies, that companies honouring the boycott appeared to be getting off with only light penalties from the Internal Revenue Service — the U.S. federal tax department.

In general the boycott, and U.S. penalties against companies that honour it, have not dissuaded American companies from operating in Israel or the Arab World.

But they are acknowledged to have had something of a chilling effect, especially on big-ticket investments such as assembly plants and factories.



'Vengeful Kuwaitis blind with rage,' returnee says

By Mariam M. Shabin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — It was the first time in his life that Abdul Kareem Oweis, 34, set foot in Jordan last month; but what should have been a joyous occasion had already turned into a nightmare by the bitter experience he underwent in Kuwait before arriving here.

As he limped towards his sister's house in Ashrafieh in Amman, Mr. Oweis recalls, memories were still fresh of the torture and inhuman treatment that were meted out to him in Kuwait — that was home once — and the six-month term he served in a Kuwaiti prison before being cast out across the border with Iraq.

No formal charges were filed against Mr. Oweis; he had no access to legal counsel. He was neither questioned or put on trial, but still had to serve out the six-month term for a crime which he never committed or even understood.

Quite simply, Mr. Oweis says, he was yet another victim of the lawless country that Kuwait has become in the post-Desset Storm era.

Having spent six months in solitary confinement, Mr. Oweis is happy to see the light and breathe "fresh, free air." His entire extended family lived in Kuwait for over 35 years and he never left the country until he received an expulsion order in the middle of May, 1992.

It was then that Mr. Oweis was reunited with his family for the first time since his arrest last November. When representatives of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) accompanied him to the Kuwait-Iraq border, he saw his wife Salwa, 27, and his two toddler children for the very first time since his imprisonment.

"Visitors (to the prison) were not allowed; my greatest fear was that my children would not know me," he recalls of the reunion with his family. They had also been presented with expulsion orders. His passport and that of his Jordanian wife were torn up by Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior officials the day he was arrested.

"My wife's passport is always with me, so she was unlucky too. Let King Hussein help you now, they said while they were tearing apart the passports," Mr. Oweis recalls.

For travel purposes the Oweis were given ICRC identification cards so they could travel from Kuwait to Jordan.

"I had been in a psychiatric ward for about a week when they (the Kuwaitis) decided to expel me," the young Jordanian recalls.

The psychiatric ward came after beatings and torture by Kuwaiti prison guards had left him begging to die. "When I asked them to kill me, they gave me a gun and when I pulled the trigger, the gun was empty," Mr. Oweis says as he lights yet another cigarette.

Mr. Oweis had been a partner in a taxi company until he had a disagreement with his Kuwaiti partner and quit. His life savings, the four thousand Kuwaiti dinars he had in the bank, were confiscated, he says, not by the Kuwaiti government but by "the bank employees who helped themselves."

He intends to seek compensation for his lost savings and a Cadillac which was confiscated by the government upon his arrest.

"I came to Jordan with six dinars in my pocket; I need my money," he said.

Asked why he had not left Kuwait before, like most other Palestinians and Jordanians who had lived in Kuwait and fled in fear of persecution at the hands of frustrated Kuwaiti gangs, he said:

"I know no other place except Kuwait. My mother and brothers still live there; there is no other home for me."

got out of the car and asked them what they wanted they asked me what I was doing in their neighbourhood. After I answered that I habitually drove through that part of town they began hitting me and marked my face with razor blades," Mr. Oweis said pointing to his cheeks.

Mr. Oweis says that after being beaten unconscious he was taken to the hospital by passers by. After interrogation, the authorities apologised and took him home.

He says that it is mostly civilians participating in vigilante-type gangs that harass and hurt the non-Kuwaiti population in Kuwait. The main victims are Palestinians and Jordanians.

Of a pre-crisis community of 450,000, only 30,000 Jordanians and Palestinians now remain in Kuwait.

"The incident in April of last year was one in which the government was in no way involved," he asserts.

"But the fact of the matter is that there is no law in Kuwait to protect people. I was arrested on a dubious charge of violating the state security," he recalls. "The fact that there was no formal charge, no lawyer, no trial and no interrogation, everything indicates that my arrest was odd."

Mr. Oweis wears dark glasses to hide the exhaustion visible in his eyes and is a chain smoker.

His released in mid-May coincided with the resumption of "collaborator trials" in Kuwait for mostly Palestinians and Iraqis whom Kuwaitis accuse of working with Iraqi forces during their seven-month occupation.

But Mr. Oweis says Kuwaiti police never charged him with collaboration with the Iraqis. He was arrested by security forces while visiting the Ministry of Interior for some residence papers.

"They slapped the handcuffs on my wrist and that was it," Mr. Oweis recalled.

Mr. Oweis said that the only explanation he could think of for his imprisonment is a personal feud between himself and a former Kuwaiti employer. "My former employer had a relative in the police department and that relative



A Palestinian mother and daughter take shelter under a truck in the desert after their expulsion from Kuwait across the border with Iraq

was there a lot while I was being tortured; maybe it had something to do with my arrest."

Mr. Oweis will probably never know why he was left to rot, as he calls it, in a solitary confinement cell in the Anbar prison. "There was no toilet and I think they put drugs in my food," he says.

According to Mr. Oweis, he was tortured and has cigarette burns all over his body. A broken finger is obvious and a scar on his forehead, he says, is his reminder of a beating he received with an iron rod.

The screams of other prisoners kept him awake at night, he says. Their voices still haunt him. "At night I looked out of the bars and I saw people being carried back to their stretchers on cots," he recalls. "Very few inmates knew me, because I ate alone in my cell. They knew about me and nicknamed me — king of the solitary," he says as if with pride.

"The sheikh at the prison mosque always mentioned me in his sermons; he always asked why had Abdul Kareem

been jailed."

The sand floor in his cell served as a toilet for the duration of the six-month stay in the cell. He was allowed two showers during that time.

"I was able to shower when the Red Cross came to see us," he says.

But Red Cross representatives were always accompanied by Kuwaiti prison officials. "I could say nothing in front of the Kuwaitis. They were there to intimidate me. When I had been badly treated and the bruises were obvious they guards transferred me to a different cell and I never saw the Red Cross officials."

Despite the obvious hardship he suffered at the hands of Kuwaitis, Mr. Oweis recalls with pride that one of his brothers served in the Kuwaiti resistance against the Iraqi occupation.

"We did what was right. My brother fought in the resistance. We helped a Kuwaiti relative."

"The Kuwaitis are so ungrateful and vengeful; they have become blind with hate."

Bush 'tried but failed' to influence Iraqi leader

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush on Thursday defended his administration's dealings with Iraq before it occupied Kuwait, saying he had tried but failed to influence Saddam Hussein.

"We tried to work with him," Mr. Bush said of President Saddam. "And it failed. That approach, holding out a hand, trying to get him to renounce terrorism, didn't work," he told a press conference at the White House.

"I know what we did, it wasn't anything illegal," Mr. Bush added.

He said as soon as Iraq's forces invaded Kuwait in August 1990, the United States made clear that "we were not gonna let aggression stand," putting together an international coalition which eventually drove Iraq's forces out.

Mr. Bush was responding to a reporter's question about congressional critics who have asked why the administration was granting grain credits and selling technology with possible military uses to Iraq before its invasion of Kuwait.

The Washington Post reported in Friday's editions that senior State Department officials urged in a 1989 memo that the United States sell anti-missile equipment to Iraq to protect a presidential Boeing 747 jumbo jet and three helicopters.

The sale was never completed, the paper said, but the memo described the sale as "consonant with our wider goal of working towards a broader relationship with Iraq."

The memo was handed over with 54 other documents to a congressional committee investigating the pre-Gulf war relationship between the Bush administration and Iraq.

Senior house Democrats signalled this week that they will seek appointment of an independent prosecutor to investigate the Bush administration's dealings with Iraq. Mr. Bush said he did not object to such a prosecutor.

The president indicated he thought the Gulf war would be a strong selling point for himself in the presidential campaign.

He said he expected that reporters in time would begin to ask undeclared presidential candidate Ross Perot to explain his opposition to the war.

"And then some day you guys are going to start with (Mr. Perot) ... were you with (Mr. Bush) when he had to make a very tough call on sending back aggression," he said.

Mr. Bush added that his efforts, putting together an international coalition to oust Iraq from Kuwait was "a move that was saluted all over the entire world and put this country together like it's never been together in the past since World War II."

Herzog: Israel was ready to return Golan in 1967

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli President Chaim Herzog said Thursday that the Israeli government was ready to return the Golan Heights to Syria in return for peace soon after the 1967 Middle East war.

His remarks, made in an interview on Israel's Arabic television service, are likely to be raised during the campaign for Israel's general elections on June 23. Both major parties contending the elections were members of the 1967 "national unity" government.

But the ruling Likud Party now maintains that lands occupied in the 1967 war, including the Golan Heights, are essential to Israel's "security" and that peace is achievable without land concessions. The opposition Labour Party says that it would be willing to trade some land for peace with Israel's Arab neighbours.

Mr. Herzog, who said he was involved in peace deliberations at the time, said the government was ready to return the Sinai Desert to Egypt and the Golan Heights to Syria as early as June 19, 1967, nine days after the war had ended.

A Likud government led by Menachem Begin returned the Sinai to Egypt in 1982 as part of the 1979 Camp David agreement. But in 1981, Mr. Begin's government "annexed" the Golan Heights to Israel and the current Likud government has declared the Heights non-negotiable.

But Mr. Herzog noted that Mr. Begin was a member of the "national unity" government of the time and was therefore party to the agreement to return the Golan Heights.

"Let us remember one thing," Mr. Herzog said. "The Israeli government, which included the late Menachem Begin ... suggested returning Sinai to the Egyptians for disarmament and peace and Golan to Syria for disarmament and peace."

The Likud will find it difficult to challenge Mr. Herzog's comments because of his role as president, which is considered to be above election politics, and because the recently deceased Begin is something of a Likud icon.

Syria has made the return of the Heights — and other lands — a prerequisite to a more committed involvement in the current Middle East peace talks.

In addition to the Sinai and the Golan Heights, Israel seized the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during the war.

U.N. chief recommends more troops for Cyprus

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali reported Thursday that tensions are rising along the line dividing Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities and recommended that more U.N. troops be posted there.

The redeployment of U.N. peacekeepers accompanied an attempt to reduce costs, by merging four battalions of about 400 troops each to three battalions of about 750 each.

The reshuffling would increase the number of U.N. soldiers available for patrol while reducing the number of officers and support staff and saving up to 30 per cent of administration costs. It would increase available soldiers from roughly 1,600 to roughly 2,250 soldiers.

Any change must be approved by the U.N. Security Council.

Dr. Ghali recommended the adjustments after issuing a report that said hostile incidents were increasing along the 178-kilometre buffer zone.

Events include the number of times weapons are pointed at U.N. peacekeepers, the number of overflights are made by both sides, and the number of defen-

sive barricades built by Greek Cypriots.

The U.N. chief said the tension has coincided with impatience over the lack of progress in resolving the division of Cyprus.

Dr. Ghali also recommended that the Security Council extend the mission of the peacekeepers for another six months when it meets in mid-June.

His proposed redeployment appeared to be in preparation for the possible withdrawal of Canada, one of the largest troop-contributing countries assisting the United Nations in Cyprus.

Canada has said it might withdraw its 575 troops after this year.

The U.N. peacekeeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), unlike any other peacekeeping force, is funded strictly from voluntary contributions. All other forces are paid for out of assessments to U.N. members.

The countries contributing troops or military police — Canada, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and Britain — send their forces at will to the United Nations for the cost.

In addition to the 1,600 there are also about 500 U.N. support personnel adding to the cost of the force.

No precise date for release of two German hostages

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Kidnappers of two Germans, the last Western hostages in Lebanon, had decided to free them but no precise date has been set, pro-Iranian political sources said on Friday.

They said they believed it might take some time to arrange the release of aid workers Thomas Kempner, 31, and Heinrich Struebig, 51, both abducted three years ago.

"There is still no clear plan specifying where and when," one source said.

German Ambassador Peter Keijwitt told reporters after talks with Prime Minister Rashid Al Solh Friday: "I don't think anybody has at the moment a firm date."

"I don't think one should raise false expectations and therefore give precise dates," said Mr. Keijwitt, adding that Bonn hoped that the two would be freed in the "not so distant future."

A Lebanese government source told Reuters on Thursday: "The issue is over. The final touches are being made for the

release of the two Germans."

Mr. Keijwitt said a letter from German Chancellor Helmut Kohl sent to Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Tuesday may have helped solve the problem but other factors could have played a role.

However, a leader of Iran's hard-liners said Friday the two Germans will not be freed unless Germany agrees to free two Lebanese held in Germany.

Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who as Iran's ambassador to Damascus in the early 1980s helped found Lebanon's Shiite Muslim fundamentalist Hizbollah, said in an interview with the AP that the kidnappers want Iran to give such assurances.

"But Iran cannot give assurances under any circumstances, because the West and America have many, many times given promises and guarantees, but have not acted upon them," Mr. Mohtashemi said.

Germany has repeatedly refused to free the two Lebanese in return for the release of Mr. Struebig and Mr. Kempner, the

last Western hostages in Lebanon.

Mr. Mohtashemi was routed in recent parliamentary elections, losing his Tehran parliament seat as President Hashemi Rafsanjani's so-called "pragmatic" supporters crushed the radicals.

Because the radicals' influence has dwindled, Mr. Mohtashemi's views on the likelihood of hostage releases cannot be taken as being representative of Mr. Rafsanjani's government, which has said numerous times it want to bring the kidnap crisis to a close.

Mr. Struebig and Mr. Kempner, kidnapped in South Lebanon in May 1989, are held by followers of Abdul Hadi Hamadi, security chief for Hizbollah.

Mr. Hamadi demanded Germany release his two younger brothers, Mohammad Ali and Abbas.

Mohammad Ali Hamadi was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1989 for the hijacking four years earlier of a TWA airliner in which a U.S. navy diver was killed. Abbas Hamadi was sentenced to

13 years for involvement in the kidnapping two German businessmen in an attempt to win his brother's freedom.

Bernard Schmidbauer, a top aide to Mr. Kohl, said on Tuesday: "There is a good chance that both German hostages will be freed in the next 10 days."

Mr. Schmidbauer, who delivered Mr. Kohl's letter to Mr. Rafsanjani in Tehran on Tuesday, said Bonn had not agreed to the kidnappers' demand that Germany free the two brothers.

He said Germany would not try to prosecute the kidnappers and denied any deal was struck to release the Hamadis early.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said on Wednesday Iran would aid foreign hostages in Lebanon including the Germans and missing Iranian freed as soon as possible.

The Tehran Times on Wednesday quoted Tehran's ambassador in Bonn as saying "all preparations" had been made for the release.

Bush to name ex-chairman of Shell as ambassador to S. Arabia

WASHINGTON — President Bush plans to name retired Shell Oil Co. chairman John F. Bock out, 69, as Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Administration officials June 3 confirmed a report in the trade newspaper Oil Daily that Bock, a prominent figure in the oil industry for decades, would be nominated as the U.S. envoy to the world's biggest oil exporting nation.

If nominated after passing FBI background checks, and if confirmed by the Senate, he would take up one of the most sensitive posts in the U.S. diplomatic service at a time when Washington and Riyadh are becoming strategic as well as economic allies in the aftermath of the Gulf War.

NEW YORK (R) — Saudi Arabians were barred from using Diners Club International cards outside of their home country because of a dispute between the card company and the local card franchise owner, Citicorp has said.

Citicorp, which owns Diners Club, said the suspension will be in place until the owners of the franchise provide a letter of credit that would ensure payments when Saudi cardholders ring up charges outside of the kingdom.

The cards are still valid in Saudi Arabia.

Citicorp said that it hopes to resolve the dispute with the local franchise shortly and return full usage to its Saudi Arabian cardmembers. The bank did not identify the owner of the local franchise.

A source familiar with the situation said Citicorp was concerned with the local franchise owners. "It's not that they don't have the ability to pay, but that they have been tardy, dragging their feet," the source said.

A Citicorp spokeswoman declined to comment on the remark. She also declined to elaborate on the dispute. The spokeswoman denies rumours that Diners Club took the action because the Saudi royal family rang up charges of \$50 million on the cards. The possibility of payment problems on the part of the royal family were "totally unrelated and without foundation," she said.

Rumours that the Diners Club action would prompt the Saudis

to withdraw their investment in the bank were also "totally without foundation," the Citicorp spokeswoman said.

Officials at the Saudi Arabian embassy in Washington were not available for comment.

Saudi Arabian Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Abdul Aziz Al Saud disclosed in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing in March that he owns the equivalent of 14 per cent of Citicorp's common stock.

In 1991, he invested \$590 million in Citicorp preferred shares, which are convertible into common stock.

Separately, Citicorp suspended use of the card in Serbia and Montenegro, Yugoslavia. It took the action because of U.N. trade sanctions.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Les Tortues Ninja
18:25 Le Démon de Cartes
18:30 La Gymnastique
19:00 News in French
19:15 Magazine E=M6
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:20 Super Bloopers
21:00 Encounter
21:30 Environment
22:00 News in English
22:20 Mini Series: Drug Wars

PRAYER TIMES
03:51 Fajr
05:25 (Sunrise) Duha
12:34 Dhuhr
16:14 Asr
19:42 Maghrib
21:16 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366

WEATHER
Bullshit supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A slight drop in temperatures will take place and some clouds will appear at various altitudes. Winds will be northerly moderate. In Aquila, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17 / 28
Aqaba 22 / 36
Deserts 13 / 32
Jordan Valley 20 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 39. Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 16 per

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

EMERGENCIES

HOSPITALS

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
06:30 Damascus (RJ)
06:30 Doha (RJ)
06:30 Cairo (RJ)
06:30 Athens (RJ)
06:40 New Delhi (RJ)
06:45 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
06:50 Colombo (RJ)
06:50 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Brussels, London (RJ)
07:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
07:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
11:30 Santa (TY)
18:20 Paris (AF)
19:20 Rome, Beirut (AZ)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:15 Beirut (RJ)
08:00 Aqaba (RJ)
08:00 Vienna (RJ)
08:25 Brussels, London (RJ)
08:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
08:45 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
08:50 Geneva, Paris (RJ)
09:05 Frankfurt (RJ)
09:10 Jeddah (RJ)
09:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
09:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
08:25 Cyprus (CY)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
12:30 Santa (TY)
23:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in Sls per kg.
Apple (red) 700 / 600
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Mekammar) 550 / 500
Beet 300 / 250
Broad bean 320 / 230
Cabbage 120 / 80
Carrot 220 / 160
Cauliflower 310 / 80
Cauliflower (large) 100 / 50
Cauliflower (small) 100 / 50
Eggplant 160 / 70
Garlic (green) 320 / 220
Lemon 600 / 500
Marrow (large) 170 / 120
Marrow (small) 170 / 120
Onion (dry) 140 / 80
Onion (green) 150 / 100
Orange 400 / 250
Peas 120 / 60
Peas 320 / 220
Pepper (hot) 280 / 220
Pepper (sweet) 280 / 220
Potato 210 / 150
Radish 150 / 100
Sage 170 / 100
Tomato 100 / 80

**ough Thursday
-1:30 p.m.**

Saturday through Thursday
9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Saturday through Thursday
9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**For further information
please call 845572, Summer Programme Section
June 20, 1992 - July 16, 1992
Saturday through Thursday
9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

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Earthly concerns

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali tried to set the right tone of the Earth Summit, that opened in Rio de Janeiro on June 3, when he told the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development that the rich nations of the world were to blame for the rising of the Earth's temperature — the greenhouse effect — while the poor countries were to blame for the destruction of the planet's resources. "The Earth is sick from underdevelopment and sick from excessive development," Dr. Ghali told delegates from over 170 countries. He went on to warn that "acting against poverty is a way of protecting environment," since most, if not all, economic catastrophes are ecological.

There is a great deal of common sense in what the U.N. secretary general told the conference in Brazil because there is clearly a plausible link of some sort between development and ecology. It is a well-known and documented fact that the industrial countries of the world are responsible, in the most part, for the destruction to planet Earth. The industrial giants even admit this irrefutable fact.

Yet, with all fairness, the developing countries are fast emulating the developed countries in polluting the environment by embarking on crash plans to industrialise and develop economically without much concern for the ecological implications of their actions.

At the same time the rich nations of the world which still continue to be the prime culprits in dangerously polluting the Earth's atmosphere, waters and soil with their industrial wastes must be held more accountable for the damage that they had caused by first calling on them to foot the bill for environmental protection including reversing the damage already caused to the environment. It has been estimated that no less than \$600 billion is needed to clean our planet and rectify the colossal environmental damage. The developed countries must therefore bear the brunt of the effort to finance the cleaning campaign for mother Earth since they themselves have inflicted the main contributors to the world's environmental catastrophe.

As the negotiators at the conference representing the entire comity of nations have been called upon to zero in on seven specific issues, ranging from global warming to ocean pollution and forest protection, there must be a quid pro quo agreement between the developed and underdeveloped countries. According to such agreement, the developing nations would honour a clearly defined commitment not to repeat the mistakes of the developed countries by putting environmental concerns high on the priority list, and the rich countries would in turn be called upon to fund the efforts for cleaning the environment from the negative consequences of their economic and industrial development.

With more than 100 heads of state expected to participate in the Rio de Janeiro summit, there is now a rare historic opportunity to translate all these aspirations into reality. Future generations will not forgive us if this occasion to save Earth is allowed to falter.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ISRAELI PROVOCATIONS against Syria are linked to the U.N. moves to eliminate all scientific and nuclear capabilities from the region in general and Iraq in particular, said Al Ra'i daily. The destruction of the Iraqi weapons and the Iraqi scientific installations by the U.N. teams is opening the way for Israel to have a free hand in launching aggression on neighbouring Syria, to kill any attempt on the part of that country to build up a scientific base for nuclear weapons or for other technological advance, the paper said. Of course now that Iraq is under embargo, Syria will be alone in facing the Israeli onslaught and Israel's continued efforts to maintain a weak Arab Nation, the paper added. It said that Jordan had warned the Arabs before, during and after the Gulf crisis that Israel was determined to carry out its plots at all costs and that Israel was choosing to finish off the might of Arab countries one by one with the help of the colonial powers. This time, we once again call on the Arabs to be vigilant and take steps towards solidarity and building a national stand in defence of Syria and the Arab homeland, the paper said. Arab countries which were aligned behind the U.S. and its allies in the Gulf crisis should reconsider their position now and should not serve as pawns in the hands of the U.S. administration and its allies to help Israel achieve its objectives in the Arab world, the paper demanded. Above all the current provocations against Syria, which paved the ground for another aggression, should be dealt with at the international level, where the Arabs should urge Washington to induce the Security Council to take some kind of action to deter Israel, it said. Any further delays in re-establishing true solidarity among the Arab countries, said the paper, will ultimately deal a devastating blow to the Arab World at large.

Al Dustour dwelt on Israel's blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip's 750,000 inhabitants. The current, unprecedented siege brings to mind the blockade imposed on the Arabs of the occupied Arab lands during the Gulf war and is designed to starve the people of the Gaza Strip and subdue them to the will of the Israeli leaders, said the daily. Israel's human rights violations are being condoned by western nations and the United Nations, and no one is lifting a finger in the West in defence of the civilian population and their rights, the paper added. Slogans on human rights, which we hear in the West, are not applicable to the Arabs, in general, and the Palestinian Arabs, in particular as it shows from the world's treatment of the Palestinian question, the paper added. The consuls general of western nations who were called out from Jerusalem to witness the Israeli atrocities against the Arabs in Gaza, said the paper, seemed to be in collusion with the Israeli government and did not raise a voice in protest. It said that the Security Council, which is supposed to keep peace and protect oppressed peoples of the world, is not doing anything at all to lift the siege. Worst of all, said the paper, the Arab and the Islamic Worlds are neglecting their duty towards their kinsmen under Israeli occupation.

By Lamis Andoni

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's brief disappearance when his plane crashed in the Libyan desert in early April has underscored more forcefully than ever the urgent need for political and organisational reforms in the Palestinian national movement.

That incident, which left Palestinian officials in Tunis panicstricken for 15 hours, has not only alerted the Palestinians to the in-fighting that could erupt in the absence of a mechanism to elect a new leader, more significantly, it has also exposed the state of disarray of PLO institutions. Without doubt, the death of a leader of Mr. Arafat's stature would be a serious blow to any nation struggling for independence. In the Palestinian case, the blow would have come at a time when the Palestinians' very right of nationhood is being challenged by both Israel and the United States.

The immediate challenge

Although Mr. Arafat's survival has saved the PLO and the Palestinians from immediate catastrophe, the leadership can no longer afford to avoid demands for reforms, especially now that criticism of the organisation has begun to widen inside the occupied territories and in the diaspora.

The immediate challenge is not simply how to find a successor to Mr. Arafat — a difficult enough task — but rather how to revitalise

Palestinian institutions to ensure the continuity of the movement, particularly if the peace process remains deadlocked. Reforms are also crucial to consolidate the Palestinian negotiating position and undercut efforts to marginalise the PLO's role in the peace process after its physical exclusion from the talks. After all, the PLO stands little chance of asserting its role if it loses its credibility among its constituency, something that would undermine support for the Palestinian negotiating team and its efforts to impose the Palestinian right to self-determination on the agenda of the peace process.

It is no secret that the PLO image is already suffering among many Palestinians who are put off by financial corruption within it and alienated by the ineffective organisational structures that have failed to provide avenues for adequate participation. And while it is true that the PLO's support for Iraq drew severe criticism from Palestinians in the Gulf and led to a decline in the organisation's funds as the Gulf states retaliated by severing financial aid, it is also true that Mr. Arafat could have lost his constituency in the occupied territories and in the refugee camps in the diaspora — the PLO's major bedrocks of support — if his position did not coincide with public opinion.

But it is the Palestinian performance, chiefly their negotiating strategy, in the peace process that remains the most serious test

for the PLO leadership, particularly as disillusionment with the talks is spreading. This factor does not rely solely on the efficiency of the negotiating team but rests heavily on the efficiency and representativeness of the structure of PLO bodies and institutions. Therefore it is no surprise

"Reforms are especially important to maintain the continuity of the intifada, for which the revitalisation and consolidation of Palestinian institutions inside and outside the occupied territories is crucial."

that the PLO's structure became more exposed and vulnerable when the peace process began as the organisation had to maintain its credibility after accepting humiliating terms for Palestinian participation. Most alarmingly, structural shortcomings, to put it mildly, became more than ever apparent to the people in the occupied territories through the close interaction between the negotiating team and the PLO leadership. Disappointment at the PLO's lack of clear planning

has not prompted a shift in allegiance among the Palestinians in the territories but open criticism of the organisation is becoming the norm.

Institutional decline

The decline of the role of Palestinian institutions, and consequently of adequate representation and participation, has been particularly rapid since the Israeli invasion forced the PLO out of its sanctuary in Lebanon ten years ago. Its departure from Beirut triggered a struggle over demands for the eradication of corruption and for power sharing which threatened to fragment the PLO in the 80s, especially as the institutions had become scattered across the Arab World, prompting a centralisation of power and financial control in the hands of the leadership in Tunis, where Mr. Arafat ended up after Beirut.

Consequently, it was no surprise when negotiations' about reforms in the PLO were more often than not reduced to deals between Mr. Arafat and the other factions over the distribution of seats in various organisations and money, rather than on rendering effective decision-making powers to the institutions. Even at the Palestine National Council, consensus was reached mainly through deals which divided quotas of representation and money among the factions, who felt intimidated by Mr. Arafat's ability to cut the cash off. The result was that such deals most of the time were the part of

the agreement, at the PNC or other levels, that was "honoured" rather than commitment to the political resolutions that were supposedly agreed.

Over the years the factions and independents felt that the role of PLO institutions was reduced to giving Mr. Arafat the go-ahead to pursue his individualistic style of leadership when it came to practical decisions. But Mr. Arafat, who used both the quotas and the money as a carrot to diffuse opposition, is not solely responsible for this state of affairs. The factions, including different groups within Fatah, in effect reinforced this pattern as the struggle for power generally overshadowed substantive political debate.

Elitism within the ranks

As a result, the role of the institutions and the departments was eroded as real decision-making became confined to an ever narrowing inner circle. This pattern also gave way to the emergence of an elitist school of thought, with prominent individuals distancing themselves from the factions they were supposed to represent. The decline of the role of the institutions resulted in turn in the alienation of many Palestinian intellectuals and activists who feared ending up wasted bureaucrats in PLO offices.

Although Mr. Arafat himself has never been accused of leading a corrupt life, he has tolerated extravagant behaviour in the cir-

cles around him. The PLO's money, unfortunately, has not only attracted parasites, it has, perhaps often inadvertently, led to corruption and to a certain standard of living among top officials which has provoked envy in those who have not been able to benefit from it. Most alarmingly, the privileged strata within the organisation are those most likely to resist calls for change. They have drifted far away from the revolutionary ideals that characterised the movement in its early years.

It is easily and honestly argued that the PLO remains more democratic and less corrupt than most Arab governments, and that dwelling on the subject at this stage could only serve the Palestinians' enemies. Whatever the truth of such assertions, the longer this situation is allowed to continue, and this article only exposes the tip of an iceberg, the harder it will be to save the PLO from disintegration. Reforms are, especially important to maintain the continuity of the intifada, for which the revitalisation and consolidation of Palestinian institutions inside the occupied territories is crucial.

Change from within the organisation, it has to be said, has never seemed to be just around the corner, so many impediments have been erected over the years. But few Palestinian activists are unaware that the destruction of the PLO will signal a catastrophic setback for the national struggle. This article also appeared in the Middle East International.

Lebanon confrontation enters dangerous phase

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The confrontation between Israel and Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas in South Lebanon has entered a particularly dangerous phase in advance of Israel's June 23 election, officials and analysts say.

Officials and diplomats said Washington and moderate Arab states like Egypt and Saudi Arabia were working hard to rein in all parties, fearing the situation is ripe for explosion.

U.S. officials believe that neither Israel nor Syria, the main outside players in Lebanon, want a major confrontation.

But events could get out of

control, especially in the approach to the Israeli election in which Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, running on a tough nationalist platform, is lagging behind the opposition Labour Party in the polls.

There is a precedent.

In 1981, Mr. Shamir's predecessor, Menachem Begin, launched a bold air strike on an Iraqi nuclear reactor outside Baghdad three weeks before an election. It succeeded and Mr. Begin scraped to victory over Labour in the polls. Many analysts believe the attack made the difference between victory and defeat.

"Neither Israel nor Syria is looking for confrontation but there's always a danger of miscalculation," said a senior Israeli official.

He thanked the Syrian-backed Lebanese government for backing militants fighting Israeli troops and allied Lebanese militia who hold a 15km-deep buffer strip in the south.

The region has been tense since Israel killed a Hizbollah leader and his family in February. A few weeks later, Islamic Jihad, generally regarded as being part of the same organisation as Hizbollah, claimed responsibility for blowing up the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, killing 29 people.

Everyone has been on tenterhooks awaiting the anticipated Israeli reprisal. So far Israel's response has been relatively restrained, though last week it did bomb a Hizbollah training base in eastern Lebanon near the Syrian border.

Lebanon has been a running sore for Israel for the past two decades. Israel invaded in 1982, occupying Beirut and driving away Palestinian guerrillas. But they were replaced by a new and even more implacable enemy in the shape of fundamentalist Shiite militias.

Clovis Maksoud, former Arab League ambassador in Washington who is now with American University in the U.S. capital, said there might not be a massive Israeli strike unless Mr. Shamir's position in the polls looked really grim.

"There will be a continuous escalation but not a major confrontation... Unless Shamir really

believes he is losing the election and needs to rally the country," Mr. Maksoud said.

One Arab diplomat in Washington said it was clearly in Shamir's interest to keep the pot boiling since the security issue traditionally played into the hands of the right in Israeli elections.

But unleashing the military is a double-edged sword for Mr. Shamir. His options are limited and any decisive action runs the risk of going wrong.

"The Israelis don't want to act in a decisive manner before the elections but Hizbollah is tempting the fate," said Stephen Cohen of the Montreal-based Institute for Middle East Peace and Development.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

25 years on, Arabs are still determined to fight Israeli-Western occupation

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

Jordanian newspapers in the past week focused attention on Israel's continued escalation of aggression on Lebanon, 25 years after its occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and on the Arab Summit and domestic affairs.

Despite the lapse of 25 years of occupation and Israel's continued acts of aggression on the Arab countries, the Arabs are still determined to confront Israel and the Palestinians are determined to liberate their lands, said Sawt Al Shaab daily.

It was with the help of the United States and other western allies, that Israel in June 1967 was able to overcome the joint forces of the Arab countries surrounding it and to occupy Arab lands to ensure further expansion, noted the paper. It said that, with backing from the United States, Israel had prepared for this aggression for a long time and with U.S. support it continues its occupation of Palestinian land.

A columnist in Al Dustour called on Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular to never abandon arms, but continue the struggle to ensure the return of the occupied territories.

Taher Al Udwan asked how there could be peace when the Arabs bear Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir declaring that Israel would not give up an inch of occupied territory. He said that the Israelis are continually being trained in the use of arms and are, men and women alike, being mobilised to carry out further wars on the Arabs to achieve Israel's dreams.

Referring to Israel's current aggression on South Lebanon, a columnist in Al Dustour said that the aggression aims at eliminating the armed militias opposing Israel's presence in

Lebanon and evicting Syrian troops from the country.

Munes Al Razzaz said that Israel was determined to rekindle a civil war in Lebanon to ensure the involvement of all militias in a war that would save the Israelis the trouble of confronting danger in the north.

As the war against Lebanon and Syria continues in South Lebanon, the Arabs countries are holding a meeting in Amman to review the outcome of the five sessions of the Middle East peace negotiations, said Mahmoud Al Rimawi a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The writer said that the Israelis are determined to abort the peace process, which has so far achieved nothing and, by its latest onslaught on Lebanon, Israel is hoping to achieve just that.

The writer said that the four ministers meeting in Amman Saturday face a tricky question of whether to pursue the peace efforts or not in the light of Israel's determination to pursue war on Arab lands.

Sawt Al Shaab referred to the situation in Gaza, which is now under siege and facing acts of terrorism and a campaign of mass arrests. The siege is designed to isolate the Palestinians in Gaza, starve them and make them kneel in front of the will of the Zionists, said the paper.

At the same time this escalation of repression on the Palestinians is yet another sign to the world community of Israel's total rejection of any bid to achieve peace with the Arab countries and to give the Palestinians their rights.

Al Dustour said that 750,000 inhabitants of the Gaza Strip are now facing starvation imposed on them by Israel which is violating human rights and escaping condemnation from the world community.

The paper said that the siege is condoned by the western countries, which raise the slogan of protecting human rights, and by the Arab and Islamic countries, which are doing nothing to help their kinsmen under occupation.

Commenting on the restoration of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, which lately a great deal of controversy, a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that certain Arab countries which called on UNESCO to take charge of the restoration work by passing the Jordanian committee responsible for that are offering the Israeli government a golden opportunity to impose its will and its rule over the Islamic sites in the holy city.

Tareq Masarweh said that Arab countries, which were aligned behind the United States against Iraq are hoping to ensure for themselves and their allies a place in the affairs of the holy shrines. He said that the reactionary forces in the Arab World are in collusion with Israel and the United States to destroy the Arab and Islamic shrines.

Al Dustour daily tackled the Earth Summit in Brazil, noting that the rich, industrialised nations shoulder the major responsibility for the pollution of the environment and the depletion of the ozone layer.

The paper said that the Earth Summit faces the task of providing means to protect the earth and its environment, but the differences among the world nations are threatening the conference with collapse and the dangerous prospect of coming out with no formula to safeguard the future generations.

It said that the industrialised nations bear the responsibility for redressing the big mess they caused to the world.

Mohammad Douadieh said it is regrettable that the industrialised nations are trying to blame the Third World nations for the damage done to the world's environment. The columnist, who writes for Al Dustour, said that the industrialised nations, which have been in the practice of pillaging the wealth of the poor nations, are forming a new world order characterised by evil, injustice and inequality and trying to destroy Third World nations with their nuclear and chemical poisons and dangerous waste.

Dr. Mohammad Masalha, another columnist in Al Dustour, said that Jordan contributes its own share to the pollution of the world's environment with the growth of its industrialised sector. Starting with 420 factories in 1954, the country now has 6,200 industrial businesses which, although creating jobs and bringing in hard currency through exports, leave waste that is dangerous to human beings and damaging the environment.

The writer demanded that a balance be established between industrialised growth and the protection of nature and its resources, and strict control be imposed of factories to ensure a safer environment for the human beings.

Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour commented on the Israeli president's recent statements in which he stressed that Israel was helping the western nations to confront the Islamic fundamentalism and preventing it from threatening western interests in the region.

The writer said that by accusing Islam of posing a threat to the West, Israel is trying to maintain its role as a frontline post in the face of the Arab countries and is aiming to secure more assistance to help the Zionists occupy more Arab territories.

Qallab's views are backed by his colleague in Al Dustour, Munes Al Razzaz, who said that Israel was appointing itself as a watch dog against Islamic fundamentalism not to please the West, but rather to blackmail western nations into giving it more help in the face of the Arab World.

Israel is playing this game now that it has lost its strategic importance for the West after the downfall of the Soviet empire, said the writer.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that Jordan is considered an oasis of stability in the region, enjoying internal security, with its society free of organised crime. Ahmad Al Mieleh said the country is not safe from crimes which occur in any society in the world, but the public has the right to know all facts about crimes.

The writer said that on a holiday citizens have more time to read than the other days of the week, and it is only just and democratic to demand that the newspapers follow the practice of other countries which publish more reading material on holidays for the benefit of the readers.

A columnist in Al Ra'i demanded that the government and concerned institutions find ways for helping students pass their time during the summer holidays which have already started. Nazih, who writes in Al Ra'i daily, said he noted that the newspapers in Jordan have been calling for some kind of action on the part of the government, but little response has materialised.

He said that the youth have nothing to do during the holidays except eat, drink and go to the movies. There is real need for the youth to be involved in useful activities, benefiting their society, he said.

Nazih also demanded that the governments and the practice of restricting the movement and travel of its employees abroad. He said preventing a government employee from travelling abroad without prior approval from his department is a violation of personal freedom. The procedure, he said, was adopted when the people were trying to find jobs abroad draining the country's skilled workforce, but now that the country has a surplus of skilled people, restricting travel is of no use.

Another writer in Al Ra'i voiced dismay at the practice of cancelling his daily columns. Fakhri Kawar said that on many occasions the editor dumped his columns under the pretext that they contained something that might draw dissatisfaction from the government. Under the umbrella of democracy, one has the right to free expression he said, that he would like never to be absent from the daily newspaper which keeps him in contact with his readers.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab praised the government for introducing the so-called inspection practice to ensure that all government officials abide by regulations and seek to serve public interest.

Ahmad Dabbas said that the creation of such a force was bound to fight corruption and preventing imbalances in the public administration system. Dabbas said that what the inspectors are required to do is to stop bribes, favouritism and abuse of public funds which have been rampant in the country.

Randa Habib's Corner

Calls you never made, bills you always pay

Is it a computer snag or human error? Could it be a premeditated measure to collect extra funds or just a small mistake of a high-tech machine?

Why do people have to pay double what they consume of the electric current or telephone calls. Many citizens receive a deluge of inaccurate bills that sometimes reach immense figures. The message is clear, if one can read between the lines: You either pay or run the risk of losing your subscription and entering your home in the dark. Because big companies — of the likes of the Jordan Electric Power Company — have no time to review a miscalculated bill.

One example of tens of such cases is when you receive a bill for JD 168,400 to cover electric expenses for an office that had been shut down three months before.

"Pay first and then argue," you hear when you attempt to explain it is an error. Whatever you do, payment comes first. One would wonder why the electric company systematically issues bills for previous months. And, why the citizen is always asked to prove that he had already paid a bill in doubt. Why doesn't the company have a registered list that would undoubtedly identify whether a bill had been paid? And when you want to cut short a long way of haggling over a would-be lost case, you will end up losing all. For whatever penny you give up for the "treasury" will become public funds.

Now, if you want to retrieve the extra funds you pay, you will have to fill in a "fat" application with so many signatures that it may take you at least two days. The process of getting back the funds will take several months. And by the time you, supposedly, collect money for a bill you did not have to pay, you will have, by then, paid tens of similar bills.

Arabs meet in Amman today

(Continued from page 1)

will boost the hardliners on the eve of the Israeli elections.

Arab leaders, it seems, are hoping that by maintaining "a positive position" they will avoid a confrontation with Washington and further widen the rift between the U.S. and Israel which has evolved after the U.S. suspension of \$10 million in loan guarantees to absorb Jewish immigrants to Israel.

This attitude was clear in recent statements made by Mr. Assad who accused Israel of seeking war and of attempting to obstruct the peace process.

Syria, however, was expected to seek a clear support for its position at the Amman meeting in case Israel decided to wage war against it or to force it to withdraw its troops from Lebanon prior to an Israeli pullout from Southern Lebanon.

The continued Israeli military attacks, mostly against Shiite areas and Palestinian bases, seek to end the presence of pro-Iranian and Palestinian armed groups in Lebanon and to create pressure for the withdrawal of Syrian troops.

These goals were part of other conditions that the Israeli delegation had presented to the Lebanese delegation during the fourth round of bilateral talks in Washington.

Israel had already begun its campaign to achieve its conditions by force starting with the assassination of the leader of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah Party, Sheikh Abbas Mousawi, who was killed together with his family, few days before the fourth round of negotiations.

Therefore, the Arab foreign ministers and negotiators, Analysts argue, will have to formulate a position that does not obstruct the peace process but does not encourage Israel to stop its policy of realising its goals by force away from the negotiating table.

There were no indications on the eve of the Amman meeting that prior Arab contacts and consultations have bridged differences over the multilateral talks or produced a more coordinated Arab negotiating strategy.

While Jordan and the Palestinians believe that by facilitating the peace process the Israeli position will be further exposed. Syria and

Lebanon still hold the view that Israel has more to gain from Arab participation in the multilateral talks.

The Palestinians had boycotted the first session of the multilateral talks held in Moscow in January. They later changed their position when Palestinians from the diaspora were admitted to the committees of refugees and economic development, triggering an Israeli boycott.

The Palestinians now argue that the multilateral committee proved to be an effective forum for the Palestinians to raise sensitive issues such as the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes — an issue that Israel refuses to discuss.

The Palestinians have been encouraged by the European and Japanese support that is lacking at bilateral negotiations where the U.S. is effectively the only power that exerts real influence.

Jordan has been long of the view that the multilateral talks could be a more effective forum due to the wider international involvement that makes it closer to the long-sought international peace conference.

But Palestinian critics of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership's continued authorisation of Palestinian participation in the peace process argue that the multilaterals are leading nowhere except for the acceleration of normalisation of relations between the Arab World and Israel.

But observers point out that it will be difficult for the PLO to take another stand in the absence of an agreed-upon negotiating Arab strategy. According to well-placed Arab sources, at least until last week, Mr. Assad was still implying, to visitors and in deliberations with Arab leaders, that he did not prefer a binding agreement that could curb his margin of manoeuvres with the U.S.

Mr. Assad, it seems, wants to be free in using his bargaining chips with the U.S. outside the negotiating rooms so as to keep direct negotiations with the U.S. if problems, such as the Syrian presence in Lebanon or allegations of supporting terrorism, become more pressing, the sources said.

Rabin suggests deal on Golan

(Continued from page 1)

land-for-peace negotiations. With voting less than three weeks off, the latest batch of opinion polls on Friday showed Labour's lead over Mr. Shamir's right-wing Likud party narrowing.

Mr. Shamir's gain in support is attributed in part to a wave of attacks in the past two weeks and also to a successful election advertisement campaign.

Pollsters for the Dahaf Agency gave Likud and right-wing satellite parties a majority of 62 in the 120-member parliament, the Yedioth Ahronoth daily said.

It had a four per cent margin of error, with 609 people questioned.

Two other polls done by Teleset and Geocartography, both showed Likud and Labour blocs with a 60-40 split. Yedioth said. Teleset polled 530 people with a four per cent margin of error and Geocartography questioned

1,000 people with a 2.5 per cent margin.

A fourth survey conducted by pollster Hanoch Smith, found Labour leading Likud by nine per cent of the vote with Likud polling 27 per cent and Labour 36, the Maariv daily reported.

Mr. Smith polled 550 people with a four per cent margin of error.

His results showed Likud with a slight edge over Labour for forming a ruling coalition, with 49 per cent compared to 44 per cent.

But 12 per cent of the Likud bloc are ultra-orthodox parties, some of whose legislators could be persuaded also to support a Labour coalition.

Another seven per cent of voters in Mr. Smith's poll were either undecided or voting for splinter parties which could also go either way.

A poll published by Yedioth Ahronoth on May 8 gave the Labour bloc a 63-seat majority over the right-wing.

Arafat leaves Amman hospital

(Continued from page 1)

dials say he is expected to be back to work "as usual" within two weeks.

Dr. Yousef Qousous told reporters that Mr. Arafat was in "good health."

A limousine of medical supplies and equipment and three nurses proceeded Mr. Arafat to the palace in the Hommar region outside Amman.

Dr. Qousous said Mr. Arafat needs rest. The operation Mr. Arafat underwent Monday was to remove brain clot caused by head bruises in April suffered in a plane crash in the Libyan desert.

Earlier Friday, Mr. Arafat, in an interview with Jordan Television conducted in his hospital room, Mr. Arafat thanked King

Hussein "for his concern over my health situation and his care during my ordeal."

He also addressed Palestinians in the occupied territories affirming that "We are on a date with dawn and victory is ours."

According to Dr. Ashraf Al Kurdi, Mr. Arafat is in good health and doctors decided to discharge him from hospital.

Dr. Kurdi, a prominent neurologist, said: "He is in a perfect shape and in excellent and wonderful spirits and therefore we decided to discharge him from hospital..."

There was no confirmation of reports which said Mr. Arafat had accepted an invitation to spend a few days at the King's palace in Aqaba.

Spain probes arms dealer's links

(Continued from page 1)

Investigations have focused primarily on two Libyan men identified as suspects in the attack. The U.N. Security Council has imposed trade and diplomatic sanctions against Libya for its failure to surrender the two suspects to American or British authorities.

The Spanish interior ministry in 1987 issued an order expelling Mr. Kassar, 46, from the country for three years on grounds that he threatened internal security and Spain's relations with other states.

His alleged association with several European intelligence agencies may explain why he has evaded numerous arrest orders in recent years. Spain's largest circulation daily El Pais said Friday.

Mr. Kassar has served prison terms for narcotics trafficking in Britain, Germany and Italy, Spanish news reports said.

Sources close to the Spanish investigation told Reuters Friday the six-month probe had produced nothing to connect Mr. Kassar to Lockerbie or to the bombing earlier this year of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires.

Some press reports linked him to the Buenos Aires bombing in which 29 were killed and 250 injured.

The Syrian was also subject of a recent scandal in Argentina after he obtained an Argentine passport in an

exceptionally short period of time and local press suggested high government contacts were responsible.

Last month an Argentine judge asked Interpol to trace and arrest Mr. Kassar for obtaining the passport under questionable circumstances. The passport was invalidated in late May.

A Spanish spokesman said Mr. Kassar's arrest in Madrid was based entirely on the results of Spanish police investigations and had nothing to do with moves by any other country.

The spokesman said Mr. Kassar, known as the "Prince of Marbella" for his opulent lifestyle, came to Spain in 1980. The ministry expelled him in 1987 because of his involvement in selling weapons to countries in conflict and because of contacts with hardline Palestinian groups.

He appealed successfully against the expulsion but the government took advantage of one of his absences from Spain to impose a three-year ban on his entering the country.

When the ban expired in 1991, Mr. Kassar returned to Spain. As at that time there was no order for his arrest in any country he was admitted and given residency, the spokesman said.

Under Spanish law he would normally be freed after 72 hours if no formal charges are brought. However Judge Garzon has the power to extend the detention order if investigations warrant.

Israel says it is easing Gaza siege

(Continued from page 1)

each day, many in the building.

Palestinians called for a U.N. Security Council session to discuss the closure.

The defence ministry said employers would be responsible for their workers' transport and supervision would be increased. But it barred entry to all residents of Nuseirat refugee camp, home to the suspected Palestinian stabber.

The president of the U.N. Security Council has voiced concern about Israeli actions in the Gaza Strip.

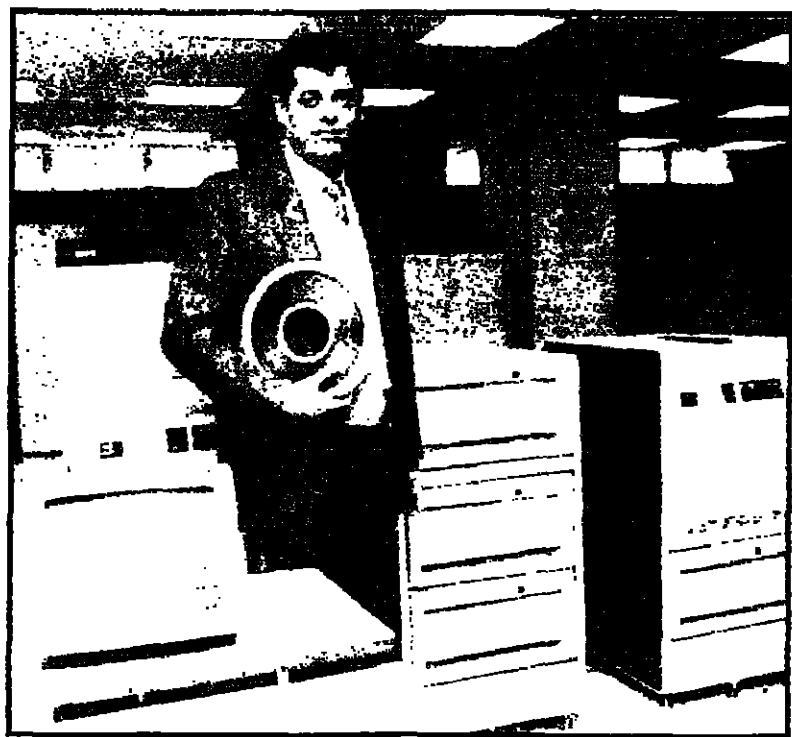
But most Security Council members, meeting in a private session, apparently rejected

proposals from Morocco to deliver a strong protest to Israel but sanctioned council President Paul Norderaeme's talks with the Israeli ambassador.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), in a letter to the United Nations, said Gaza was completely cut off from the outside world, including all its sea and land exits.

PLO delegate Nassir Al Kidwa also said Israel was separating areas in the strip from one another and allowing armed settlers to block roadways within Gaza.

"These practices are among the most repulsive, forms of collective punishment imaginable," he said.



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Courier routs Agassi, advances to Paris final

PARIS (AP)—Defending champion Jim Courier overwhelmed Andre Agassi in three quick sets Friday, moving into the final of the French Open with a display of powerful, almost error-free tennis.

Reaffirming his stature as world No. 1, Courier demoralized Agassi from the start with implacable calm and brutal groundstrokes. The 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 victory took just two hours, one minute, and Courier whacked a ball high into the stands in delight at the finish.

"It went much better than I possibly could have thought," he said. "I didn't expect it to be like that."

Courier has now reached the finals of three straight Grand Slams, losing to Stefan Edberg in last year's U.S. Open and winning the Australian Open this year.

The defeat was another Grand Slam disappointment for 11th-seeded Agassi, who has reached seven semifinals in the four major events but never won a title. He lost in the final here to Courier

last year and to Andre Gomez in 1990.

Agassi said it was easier to accept defeat this year. "Last year he had some luck — this year he just won it," Agassi said. "He's playing really efficiently. He's not giving up any careless errors. He's serving well. He's moving well."

"He's really putting everything together in this tournament," Agassi added. "I said beforehand that if he could go out there and beat me, he'd make a believer out of me."

Agassi had billed the match as tantamount to the final because the day's second semifinal featured two outsiders. Unseeded Henri Leconte of France, the crowd favorite, faced No. 7 seed Peter Korda of Czechoslovakia, who had never before played on center court here.

The Agassi-Courier match failed to excite the center-court fans at Stade Roland Garros. On a cloudy, cool day, the stands remained partly empty throughout the match, with many French fans not arriving until the

Leconte-Korda semifinal.

Almost the only similarity between Agassi and Courier was their white baseball caps. In the first two sets, Courier made only a handful of mistakes while Agassi doublefaults contributed to his first two service breaks. At match point, Agassi made an unforced error on a backhand.

"The key for me was that I was able to return his serve a lot more comfortably than he was able to return mine," Courier said. "This could have been my best match on clay."

Courier now has a 22-match winning streak, including 12 straight wins on clay. The last time he lost was to Michael Chang in the semifinals at Key Biscayne in March.

Courier now holds a 5-4 career edge over Agassi, but has won the last four matches.

In the women's final Saturday, top-seeded Monica Seles will be seeking her third straight title against No. 2 seed Steffi Graf, the champion here in 1987 and 1988.

Their last encounter in a Grand Slam final was here in 1990, when Seles won 7-6 (8-6), 6-4.

"Whenever I played her, we always produced some great matches," Seles said Thursday. "I haven't seen her play this week, so I guess my dad is going to have to tell me what she was doing, to catch up a little bit."

Seles had a day off Friday after outlasting third-seeded Gabriela Sabatini, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, in the most spectacular, best-played women's match of the tournament.

Graf, who rallied to beat Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, 0-6, 6-2, 6-2, had a women's doubles semifinal Friday.

Seles may have deprived Graf of a third French Open title two years ago and seized her world number one ranking since, but she still deeply respects her rival.

Seles is predicting a close final Saturday when the pair meet once again on the center court at Roland Garros.

"I think Steffi doesn't have any weaknesses," said Seles, the defending champion. "Steffi is very fast and she is going to get back a lot of balls."

But both women showed signs of fallibility in their semifinals Thursday.

Seles trailed 2-4 in the third set before summoning up all her energy to beat Sabatini, the third seed.

Graf, seeded second, allowed herself to be whitewashed in the opening set against 1989 cham-

pion and last year's runner-up Sanchez Vicario of Spain before coming back to win 6-6, 6-2, 6-2.

The beaten semifinalists both think Seles will win Saturday, in the eighth career meeting between the two but the first this year. The head-to-head score stands at 5-2 to Graf.

"Monica is really strong on the baseline and she moves the ball very well so she can put pressure on Steffi," said Sanchez Vicario. "She has a lot of confidence because she is number one."

"If Monica is in good shape I think she can win," added Sabatini.

Seles took the number one ranking from Graf in March last year after the German had reigned for a record 186 weeks.

The 18-year-old Seles is desperate to emulate Graf's 1988 feat of winning all four Grand Slam titles in one year.

Seles took the first leg in January in Australia, a tournament Graf missed through illness.

But Seles's decision not to play in last year's Federation Cup — the qualifier for this year's Olympic Games in Barcelona — has ruled out any chance of her copying Graf's "golden slam" when the German added the 1988 Olympic title on Seoul for good measure.

Graf, who won the French Open in 1987 and 1988 and lost in the following two finals, refuses to think about her chances of a third singles title before she has played her doubles semifinal with compatriot Anke Huber Friday.

"It is good to have another match to concentrate on," Graf, 22, said. "I will think about Saturday when the day comes."

Problems with her health and media exposure of her family life have often taken their toll on Graf.

Last year, while Graf was on court losing her semifinal here to Sanchez Vicario, her father Peter was involved in a heated argument in the stands — an incident which attracted as much coverage as his daughter's defeat.

Peter Graf has been noticeably absent from Roland Garros this time and Steffi, who has a new coach in Heinz Guenthardt, has seemed tranquil.

"Off the court I am very calm right now," said Steffi. "I don't have any ups and downs."

A Graf in good mental, as well as physical, shape could spell bad news for Seles's hopes of becoming the first woman since German Hilde Sperling in the 1930s to win three French Open titles in a row.

Italy beat Ireland 2-0

FOXBORO, Massachusetts (R) — Italy used a skilled ground game to beat Ireland 2-0 Thursday in the U.S. Cup '92 Soccer Tournament.

Restarts provided the scoring before a crowd of 38,797 at Foxboro Stadium as Italy scored in the 17th minute on an indirect kick by midfielder Giuseppe Signori and on a penalty kick in the 65th minute by Alessandro Costacurta.

"Against Ireland, we are much shorter and what we can't do with strength, we had to do with intelligence," Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi said.

It was the second match of the tournament for each side and put Italy in second place with three points, behind the United States with four.

The Italians' ground game gave them the better of the play compared to the air attack of Ireland, which seemed to lack energy in the final half of a match marred by fouls.

Each team drew a pair of cautions and Ireland goalkeeper Pat Bonner was ejected midway through the second half.

Italy is now 7-0 against Ireland in international competition. The

last time they met was in the quarterfinal round of the 1990 World Cup, where the Italians came away with a 1-0 victory.

Italy finished with an 8-6 edge in shots. Ireland victimized themselves with 15 off-sides.

Having his team outscored 5-1 in its games with Italy and the United States, Ireland coach Jack Charlton was not pleased.

"I'm never happy with our performance when we give up two goals," Charlton said. "We had chances. But every time we made a good run from the midfield the referee put the flag up" signalling off-sides.

The opening half had opportunities for each side with the Italians having the better run of play. Play was frequently halted due to 17 fouls and three players received cautions.

Ireland mounted a long-ball assault, carried by Bonner's long punts, but nothing bore fruit and play grew chippy. Niall Quinn bumped Italian goalkeeper Walter Zenga, to which Zenga answered with a swing at Quinn. In the 17th minute, defender David O'Leary brought down midfielder Luca Fusi, setting up Signori's goal.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9852 ♠ QK10 ♠ A532
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A1094 ♠ Q42 ♠ A62 ♠ Q6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 2 ♠
What do you bid now?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AQJ10 ♠ QK ♠ 73
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9854 ♠ QJ84 ♠ K965
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you respond?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AQ102 ♠ 6532 ♠ QJ9 ♠ 462
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9854 ♠ QJ84 ♠ K965
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you respond?

What do you bid now?
you hold:
♠ 9854 ♠ QJ84 ♠ K965
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9854 ♠ QJ84 ♠ K965
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AQ102 ♠ 6532 ♠ QJ9 ♠ 462
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

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♠ 9854 ♠ QJ84 ♠ K965
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you respond?

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JUNE 6, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Thinking that others are taking advantage of you brings out personal resentments and can be put in better perspective when you stop to realize if it your workload isn't any larger than others.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can be just as personal as you wish today and go after those longings that have eluded you in the past but that have always intrigued you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make contact with whatever influential or astute advisors are available to you and get them along with whatever private desires you have.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is your day to consider doing something special for your friends and acquaintances and to join with them and outside partners in a joint project.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Study the various worldly outlets which can exalt your position in your community and get the help of those in a position of power to aid.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have been in a rut too long and anything of breadth of scope that you now take up can be the means by which forge ahead rapidly to growth.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Make sure now that you adopt

a more encouraging and complimentary stance towards your close attachment and a greater harmony reigns between you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are naturally tied to home and family but this is the day when you greatly benefit by getting out, making new contacts and being seen in the world.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get a new campaign of action going that can enhance your success at whatever your activities and bring you a new enthusiasm in attending to them.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A glow and feeling of goodwill should permeate you, now so that you can see and enjoy close companions as well as arrange future meetings.

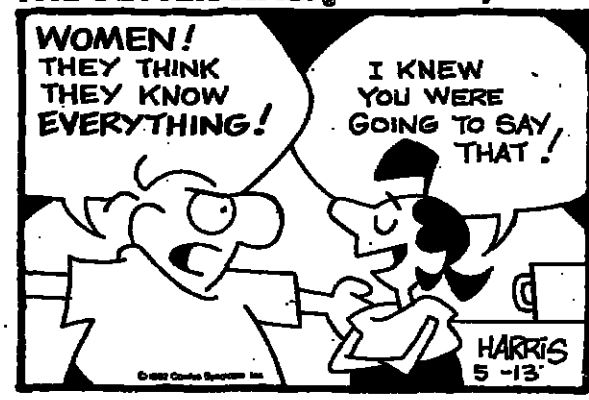
CAPRICORN: (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) There can seem to be some cyclic changes taking place where your home, family or possessions are concerned and you gain by going along with them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is your productive day so from early morning until late tonight be sure to get into those interests more important to you and expand them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider well all aspects of your money and property interests and you can find the key to a greater amount of assets by adopting more modern methods.

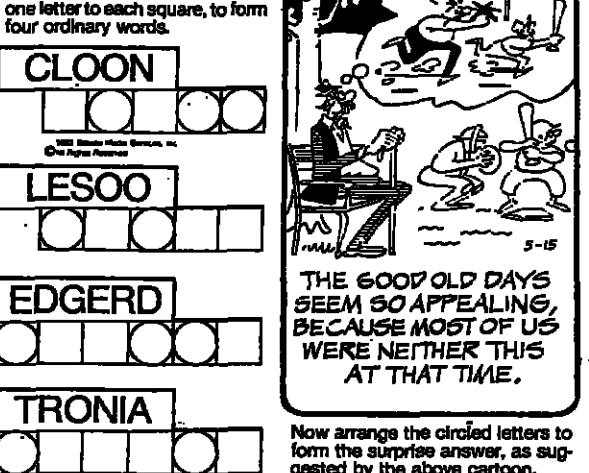
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

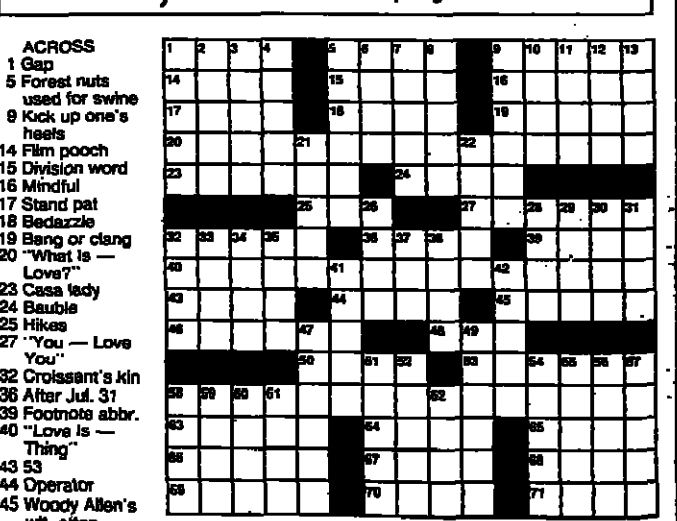


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "FOAM" "VAGUE" "MEMBER" "EXTENT" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FOAMY VAGUE MEMBER EXTENT
Answer: That name-dropper evidently meets a good many people who have ... NEVER MET HIM

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia L. Yates



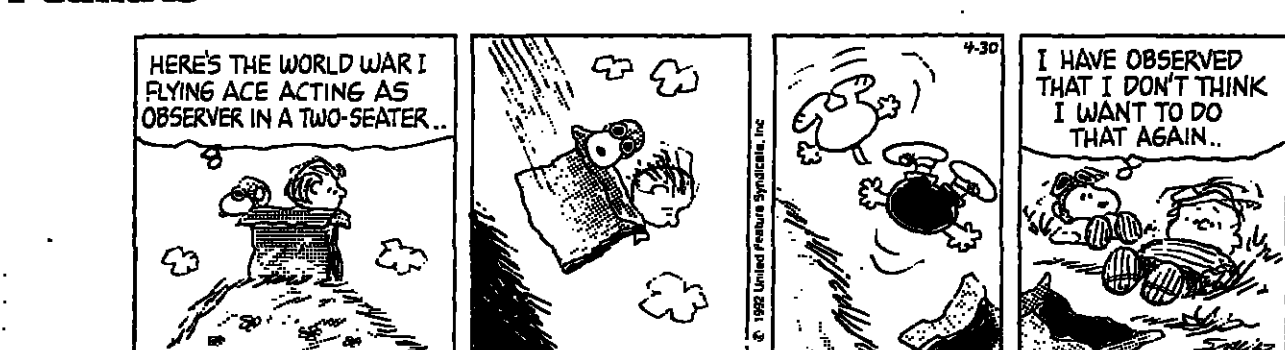
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ROSA STACEY ACPT
ABOUT PIERRE TRIDE
PORT MANTLEAD WARD
SBB ADDED GASSES
EMERIS VOTING
IMPERS ELITA ONE
ROTTER TRAIL SUIA
AQUA ABOUT RYDIA
RET A LIES RALLIES
ERO NAME MURGES
OPINE ROSA
ROVER STERE TAP
ROSPORTS MANTKE
STILO STRAPS ANTS
LOUIS ORRITS BERT

52 More off the wall 58 Do the hedge
54 — Miss, CA 59 Leander's love
55 Grapevine 60 Whiffenpoof love
56 product 61 Sharp
57 Greater ver. 62 "We — Crush
57 Sides on you"

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



U.S. unemployment rate jumps to 7.5%

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. unemployment rate jumped to 7.5 per cent in May, the highest in eight years, as people entered the labour force faster than the economy could provide jobs for them, the Labour Department said Friday.

The number of non-farm jobs rose by a modest 68,000 last month, far less than the 101,000 that Wall Street economists had predicted.

The unemployment report was consistent with other recent economic indicators that show an economy lumbering out of recession, but unable to work up the kind of vitality that has characterised most recoveries since World War II.

In the past week, the government has reported modest gains in factory orders, personal income and the index of leading indicators, its main barometer for economic health.

The closely watched report, which provides a first look at the month's economic performance,

showed the highest jobless rate since August 1984, when it was also 7.5 per cent.

The high rate was an indirect result of the economic recovery, which has encouraged those who had given up trying to find a job — mostly young people — to resume their search, according to William Barron, deputy commissioner of Labour Statistics.

"This development has put some belated pressure on the unemployment rate," he said in testimony prepared for delivery before the Congressional Joint Economic Committee.

The department's household survey showed that the labour force — those working and those seeking jobs — rose by 330,000 last month to 127.16 million.

At the same time, however, the number of unemployed people rose by 349,000 to 9.5 million.

The long-term unemployed, those out of work for 15 weeks or longer, rose by 343,000 last month to 3.4 million, the highest level since November 1985 the department said.

Italy raises key rate to prop up lira

ROME (R) — The Bank of Italy raised a key interest rate Thursday to defend the sagging lira, which has been battered on currency markets since Denmark's rejection of the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) treaty.

The bank said it would effectively raise the rate at which it gave emergency funding to credit institutions to 13 per cent from 12.5 per cent previously.

A bank statement said the move was taken "in view of the tensions that have developed ... on European foreign exchanges and financial markets and their effects on the Italian markets."

Italian bond and currency markets have been hit particularly by worries that the EMU process would unravel.

Economists fear that if the treaty founders, Italy, which has pledged to make deep cuts in its public sector deficit and to slash inflation, has the most to lose.

Altering the emergency funds rate is one of the most powerful signals the central bank can give to financial markets short of changing the discount rate itself.

The rate move follows two days of hectic trading on Italian markets in which the lira has come under increasing pressure against the Deutschmarks.

Amman Financial Market

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	May 30-June 3	May 23-27
Daily average	JD 1.7 million	JD 1.3 million
Total volume	JD 8.6 million	JD 5.2 million
Total shares	3.7 million	2.2 million
No. of contracts	5,181	3,467

Sectoral trading:

Industrial	JD 4.3 million (73.3%)	JD 3.8 million (73.1%)
Financial	JD 0.8 million (9.3%)	JD 0.8 million (15.4%)
Service	(16.3%)	(9.6%)
Insurance	(1.1%)	(1.9%)
Share price index	158.8	157.7
No. of companies	76	68
Price movement (rise)	51	9
(Decline)	12	54
(Stable)	13	5

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.8282/92	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1970/75	Canadian dollar
	1.5943/53	Deutschmarks
	1.7972/77	Dutch guilders
	1.4565/75	Swiss francs
	32.80/84	Belgian francs
	5.3700/50	French francs
	1204/1205	Italian lire
	127.05/15	Japanese yen
	5.7540/90	Swedish crowns
	6.2290/340	Norwegian crowns
	6.1530/630	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	\$338.90/339.90	

World Bank president offers plan for aid

Third World demands more money at Earth Summit

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Third World nations fired their opening shot at the start of the U.N. Earth Summit demanding that rich nations give more money to poor ones and stop binging on earth's limited natural resources.

"It is difficult for a man scavenging on the garbage dump created by affluence and profligate consumption to understand that protecting a bird is more important than protecting him," Pakistan's Anwar Saifullah Khan told delegates in the first speech to the summit's general debate.

Mr. Khan was speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 (G-77) developing nations, which has attacked the West for spending more time in pre-summit talks on plants and animals than on human beings.

Referring to the world who live in squalor, Mr. Khan said: "It is futile to visualise the planet earth with a perfectly harmonised environment without reasonably catering to the needs and aspirations... of these billions."

Developing nations are disappointed that the summit's two centrepiece treaties — one to fight the pollution that causes global warming and a second to protect endangered species — have both been heavily modified after industrialised countries objected.

The Third World is also alarmed that squabbles during preparatory talks have so far prevented agreement on the key issues of how much money should be spent to protect the planet and who should pay.

Mr. Khan had a simple message from developing nations on the subject: "We cannot save the environment if the rich refuse to provide greater aid to the poor," he said.

Such aid could include dismantling protectionist barriers to

trade, relieving crushing debt burdens and helping fight poverty in the Third World, he said. But the world's rich had to change the way they lived also.

"Sustainability would remain a far cry unless the wasteful and overconsumptive lifestyles are changed," Mr. Khan said. He demanded an end to "the current unacceptable situation where 20 per cent of world population are consuming 80 per cent of its resources and are also responsible for 75 per cent of the emissions that pollute the atmosphere."

World Bank President Lewis Preston told the Earth Summit Thursday the lending agency would earmark a portion of its profits for environmental projects if member nations approve.

"We all have a stake in safeguarding the planet and the future of our children and grandchildren. International cooperation is the key to success," Mr. Preston said in a speech on the second day of the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development here.

In an earlier news conference, Mr. Preston told reporters the proposed amount had not been determined and would depend on

the bank's interest-rate profits, but added the figure would "not be a token amount."

He said inadequate sanitation for one-third of the world's population — one billion people without safe drinking water and 1.3 billion people exposed to indoor pollution from soot and smoke — clearly indicated the need for action.

"These problems exemplify the link between poverty and the environment. They demand urgent attention," he said.

Funding for environmental projects in the Third World is among the thorniest issues facing the summit, with rich and poor nations squabbling over the role of the global environment facility, a pilot programme run by the World Bank for developing nations.

Third World countries, which say they are too poor to meet the requirements of meeting environmental needs with development, are wary of the bank's control of the facility. Rich nations, however, insist that the facility is the proper instrument for funding, a fact that was reiterated by the British delegation Thursday.

Mr. Preston, meanwhile, de-

fended the role of the bank in environmental matters during the news briefing, saying he did not believe the institution was lending to operations that damage the environment as it has been accused of doing.

"I don't think we are financing projects that are harmful," he told reporters before his formal address to the conference.

The World Bank has long been criticised for lending money for developing projects — such as clearing rain forests for cattle grazing operations — that produced significant harm to the environment.

Mr. Preston said this is the time for action, not blame, but conceded that criticism of the bank's past lending practices lingers.

"I've learned to accept that kind of criticism. I don't like it. I don't think it's accurate," he said.

Nonetheless, criticism of his new proposal came almost immediately. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) said the bank had still not developed a comprehensive strategy to address environmental and development problems.

The address today by World Bank President Lewis Preston

avoids the crucial challenge of defining a clear action plan to implement sustainable development," WWF-International Director of Campaigns Gordon Shepherd said in a statement.

The money for environmental projects Mr. Preston proposed would have to be approved by the bank's shareholder nations.

"If donors are prepared to support such an initiative, we would be prepared to propose to our board of directors an annual allocation from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development's (IBRD) net income as the bank's own contribution to the earth increment," Mr. Preston said.

IBRD's profits come from interest rates charged for loans the bank makes, while loans from the International Development Association (IDA) are made to poor nations' at concessional terms.

The funds that Mr. Preston proposed would represent an increment for the IDA, which lends to the poorest nations — and is coming up for its 10th three-year replenishment.

Mr. Preston said he is requesting \$20 billion for IDA, compared with its previous \$15.5 billion.

ILO sees unemployment disaster in E. Europe, former Soviet Union

GENEVA (AP) — Massive unemployment in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union is a "disaster waiting to happen," the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said.

An ILO report said as a result of the political changes and economic hardship in the former Soviet Bloc, there was likely to be a stream of migrants across Europe on a scale not seen since the end of World War II.

It said one survey carried out in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and the Moscow region showed

nearly two million people definitely intend to leave. A further 7-30 million people are thinking about migrating to improve their standards of living, it said.

The ILO cited figures by the labour ministry in the former Soviet Union that two million of its citizens want to move to other countries. But it said in practice this number would be limited by the cost of travel, and visa restrictions imposed by neighbouring countries.

Problems in legal migration might prompt citizens of the ex-Soviet Union to move illegally,

the report said. It said there were already an estimated 80,000 living secretly in Poland and a further 60,000 in Hungary.

"Indeed there is a risk for Poland that many more citizens of the former USSR might get that far and no further," it said.

It said North America was the first choice for Russians and Poles, while Hungarians would choose Germany.

Although the traumatic political and economic changes in the former communist countries have already cost millions of jobs, the worst is yet to come, the ILO

said. It said although industrial production has slumped as east Europe reforms its centrally planned system unemployment has so far increased "surprisingly slowly," with the state still cushioning many workers from the full effects of the market economy.

"In the long term, rates of 15 to 20 per cent are possible," it said. "Massive unemployment in this region is a disaster waiting to happen."

The ILO cited a recent World Bank study that the annual costs of unemployment and worker retraining would be \$1,250 per person in the ex-Soviet Union and \$2,500 in the rest of eastern Europe. It said if World Bank predictions were correct that there would be 52 million unemployed in five years and that the total annual cost would be \$72 billion per year.

Yugoslavia denies selling gold

BELGRADE (R) — Serb-led Yugoslavia has denied that it had sold any of its gold reserves, valued at \$650 million, to finance armed intervention in the breakaway republics of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"The National Bank of Yugoslavia has not sold one gramme from its gold reserves. I want to say there is no truth in this news," said George Nicovic, general manager for foreign exchange at the Belgrade-based bank.

"The gold has not been sold, or pledged, or designated for swap," Mr. Nicovic told Reuters.

Gold market sources in London said last week that Serbia, mainstay of the rump Yugoslav federation, may have sold off a large portion of Yugoslavia's gold reserves earlier this year to fund the Balkan ethnic war.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) financial statistics showed that Yugoslavia gold reserves stood at 1.92 million ounces, or 59 tonnes, at the end of January but had been near this level since the early 1980s.

Mr. Nicovic confirmed this amount as well as the market

value of \$650 million but said there was nothing unusual in it. "I cannot explain why somebody is giving this news (reports of sell-off). It seems to be a report to show that the Serbian government is selling federal gold, which is totally incorrect," Mr. Nicovic added.

In March this year the London bullion market was awash with rumours of gold sales by an east European central bank as gold prices fell from \$350 to below \$340 an ounce.

But five east European banks contacted by Reuters at the time denied that they had been involved in the sales, including the Yugoslav central bank in the Serbian capital Belgrade.

A senior gold dealer in London said IMF data on Yugoslavia reserves was no longer credible. "The Serbians have been sitting on Yugoslavia's gold while their economy collapses. I can't believe they haven't touched it," he told Reuters.

According to IMF statistics, Yugoslavia's foreign exchange reserves, excluding gold, plunged from \$5.4 billion at the end of 1990 to \$2.2 billion at the end of January this year.

Gold forms the last reserve of most central banks in times of crisis. The anonymous character of the precious metal and the secrecy of the bullion market makes it ideal for raising funds stealthily.

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Yugoslav army starts pull-out from Sarajevo, fighting kills 1

BELGRADE (R) — Several hundred Yugoslav army soldiers began a long-delayed withdrawal from their barracks in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo Friday, Sarajevo Radio said.

Radio editor Zoran Pirolic said the withdrawal from the Marshal Tito Barracks began with an escort by United Nations peacekeeping forces after an agreement between the army and rival Bosnian forces.

Earlier attempts to evacuate soldiers were torpedoed by disagreements over the terms of withdrawal and continued fighting around the barracks.

The Marshal Tito Barracks is the last army base in Sarajevo to be evacuated.

The army pulled out of two other barracks but was attacked by mainly Muslim and Croat defence forces on May 28 as it made the second withdrawal, from the Jufus Dzonlic Barracks.

Sarajevo Radio said an agreement had been reached at talks Friday but gave no details. The main stumbling block had been the army's refusal to leave heavy weapons in the Marshal Tito Barracks.

Sarajevo has been under siege from Serb forces who oppose Bosnia-Herzegovina's independence from Yugoslavia.

More than 5,700 people have been killed in fighting in Bosnia in the last two months and about one million have been forced from their homes.

Earlier Friday, Serb irregular forces pounded the Sarajevo with artillery, rockets and mortars killing at least one person and leaving a trail of burning cars and buildings.

Shells rained down from the Serb-held hills around Sarajevo until around 3 a.m. (0100 GMT). Witnesses said rockets slammed relentlessly into blocks of flats in the heaviest attack for several days.

"Shells hit new and old parts of Sarajevo and there was fighting around the barracks," Sarajevo Radio journalist Miroslav Simovic said. "Homes and cars are on fire."

He said one small girl was killed in fighting confirmed by Bosnia's Serb News Agency SRNA and rival Bosnian media. About one million people have been forced from their homes in

Bosnia and tens of thousands face starvation in besieged Sarajevo, a city of 500,000 before fighting began.

"Everyone is relying on what reserves they have at home. No shops are open, there is nothing to buy," Mr. Simovic said.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic, a Muslim, pleaded Thursday for foreign military action to help the trapped people, saying new U.N. sanctions against Serb-led Yugoslavia would take too long to halt the bloodshed.

"If it has to be military intervention, let it be military intervention," Mr. Silajdzic said during a visit to Paris. "We are concerned with the starvation of tens of thousands. They can't wait."

The local Bosnian Crisis Centre said 22 people were killed and 89 wounded in fighting in the newly-independent Balkan state in the 24 hours to noon Thursday.

"They can't ever bury their dead," said Mr. Silajdzic. "It's the stone age."

The Serb irregular forces have been fighting to remain in the dismembered Yugoslav state, now with only two republics — Serbia and Montenegro.

Four other republics — Macedonia, Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina — have voted for independence in the past year and broken away from the Yugoslav state set up in 1918 and recreated as a Communist state after World War II.

As U.N.-imposed sanctions begin to choke his tiny republic, the president of Montenegro suggested Thursday that he may rethink his alliance with Serbia.

"I leave open the possibility that we have made mistakes," Momir Bulatovic said of Montenegro's decision to remain part of Yugoslavia with Serbia.

"We still have relations with the Serbian authorities, but there is also a great attempt to ... see the mistakes made," he told the Associated Press.

His comments were the first public indications of strains within the Yugoslav Federation of Serbia and Montenegro since the United Nations imposed trade, sports and transportation sanctions on it Saturday.

The penalties were imposed on



A Serbian fighter takes a break from fighting near a Croat-controlled village in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Yugoslavia to punish Serbia, which is widely blamed for directing violence in neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The mountainous republic, surrounded by the Adriatic Sea, Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia, is heavily dependent on export and tourism, "and we cannot endure months of sanctions," said Mr. Bulatovic.

Although Montenegro is dwarfed by Serbia, its pullout from Yugoslavia would be a serious blow to its larger ally.

In creating the reduced Yugoslavia, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic hoped the new entity would be accepted internationally as the heir to the old federation.

That would have given Serbia the lions share of old Yugoslavia's assets, as well as entry into all international organisations in which the previous federation held membership.

But the defection of Montenegro would drastically weaken any Serbian claim that Yugoslavia continued to exist.

It would also further isolate Serbia and Mr. Milosevic. As Serbia's estrangement from the rest of the world grows, former Milosevic allies are defecting. Among the latest was the Serbian Orthodox Church which

has growing moral authority in the republic of 9.5 million. It has severely criticised Mr. Milosevic recently and urged him to resign.

Montenegro, a republic of 500,000 people, decided in a February referendum to join with Serbia, but Mr. Bulatovic, 35, said he could conceive of a new plebiscite on the issue if the sanctions endured.

In Washington, the chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee called Thursday for imposition of a United Nations naval blockade and possible military action to halt Serbian aggression against neighbouring states.

"War is being waged against innocent people," Sen. Claiborne Pell said in a speech on the Senate floor. "It is time to consider further steps to save lives."

Sen. Pell's recommendation came as NATO foreign ministers meeting in Oslo, Norway, agreed for the first time to allow their troops to operate outside alliance territory for peacekeeping duty.

The decision was reached at the urging of the United States.

But a senior administration official said no serious planning has yet begun for the potential involvement of U.S. forces in the ethnic conflict.

nians but controlled by Azerbaijan.

In the final statement, the ministers said they were "profoundly disturbed by the escalation in the fighting, loss of life, suffering and extensive destruction in the crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh and beyond."

They gave their backing to a proposal to send civilian observers to the region under the auspices of the OSCE-led Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

The special security forum, the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, has targeted the ethnic dispute as an issue it would like to help resolve peacefully.

Before the meeting, Mr. Woerner met with his arms around the ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia, encouraging them to talk to each other.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said at the meeting, "We cannot accept that inside the CSCE and (the NATO security forum) a conflict is solved with military means."

Mr. Woerner said he was not sure if the ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia would be able to join the fray after the convention.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton will be formally nominated at summer conventions.

Mr. Clinton, whose candidacy was nearly forgotten in questions at the news conference, said in a later television interview, "frankly, I was relieved not to be mentioned at that press conference tonight because it was so much more about politics than substance."

Mr. Clinton accused news media of dealing with Mr. Perot by "pumping him up" without pinning him down on issues.

Mr. Bush, in an opening statement at the news conference, tried to focus on a repetition of his call for a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. constitution, but most of the reporters' questions were about politics.

Mr. Bush defended his environmental record and said that critics at the Earth Summit in Brazil will not sway his policy against a tough global warming treaty. He said he is afraid such a treaty would cost American jobs.

"I'm not going to forget the American family, and if they don't understand that in Rio, too bad."

The president also defended his record on the Gulf war, which Mr. Perot has criticised, as well as

Walesa asks parliament to elect new premier

WARSAW (AP) — President Lech Walesa Friday nominated a 33-year-old peasant leader as Poland's fourth post-Communist prime minister as parliament remained deeply divided over the pace of market-oriented reform.

Mr. Walesa sought the removal of Jan Olszewski after the prime minister abruptly released the names of government officials who may have collaborated with secret police under the old Communist regime.

Mr. Olszewski's failure to broaden a shaky minority coalition stalled key economic legislation, delayed reforms, added to the political instability seen to be discouraging foreign investment and led to the failure of his government.

Asked why he selected the youthful farmer leader, Mr. Walesa said, "the point is to reach agreement between different groups, expand solidarity and strengthen reforms."

Mr. Pawlak would be the first prime minister since the 1989 toppling of the Communists.

The Peasant Party is the fourth-largest in parliament, and its withdrawal of support for the Olszewski government this week was key to bringing it down.

It is not clear if Mr. Pawlak can build a substantial coalition in the deeply factionalised parliament, where the largest party has only 13 per cent of the seats.

The Peasant Party was long allied with the Communists, but since 1989 has changed its name and its philosophy, and now strongly backs the transition to a market economy — as long as there are protections for farmers, a controversial caveat.

The vote to dismiss the Olszewski government early Friday, on a motion submitted by Mr. Walesa, was 273 to 119 against, with 33 abstaining.

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. experts skeptical of North Korea's renunciation of atomic weapons said it could take United Nations sanctions to force the Communist regime to submit to inspections and give up its nuclear plans.

But one specialist said the West should prepare for better relations with one of the world's last hardline Communist governments. And new evidence obtained by the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency from North Korea suggests that Pyongyang is a long way from producing a nuclear bomb, an IAEA spokesman said in Austria.

Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, said in a report Thursday that U.N. inspectors now in North Korea should be

able to locate enough undeclared plutonium to fuel between 6 and 13 bombs the size of the one that the United States dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945.

This conclusion comes from various published and leaked estimates of U.S. intelligence monitoring of an alleged processing operation at Yongbyon, North of Pyongyang, Mr. Milhollin said in the report discussed at a news conference sponsored by the Arms Control Association, a U.S. private nonpartisan organisation.

Mr. Milhollin, in the report, urged the U.N. International Atomic Energy Administration break with its traditional policy of confidentiality about inspections.

"If the inspectors are not satisfied with North Korean cooperation, they should publicly protest... The world would then rally

behind the inspectors and force North Korea to fulfill its obligations," he said.

Inspectors should demand that the Communist government hand over the plutonium, and if North Korea refuses, it will be in violation of the non-proliferation treaty and subject to sanctions, said Mr. Milhollin.

South Korean diplomat Ahn Ho-Young, at the news conference, said it could take continuing diplomatic pressure from the United States, Japan and Russia to persuade North Korea to meet all required verification conditions. These include proposed reciprocal inspections by North and South Korea far more thorough than IAEA inspections but which the two Korean governments have not yet agreed on, he said.

Sharp focus last month by a meeting in Virginia of the Business Council, a group of 100 active and 100 retired chief executive officers (CEOs).

In media briefings, several council members said they thought Mr. Perot lacked one of the most important characteristics of a president — a willingness to compromise.

Such feelings were spelt out by one of the CEOs who responded to the Fortune poll, Edward Brandon, chairman of the National City Corp. of Ohio.

"He (Perot) would make a superb benevolent dictator but that's not our system," Fortune quoted him as saying.

Newspaper accounts have portrayed Mr. Perot as a man who ran the company he founded — Electronic Data Systems — with an iron fist, to the extent of demanding that employees wear their hair short and adhere to a strict dress code.

If elections were held now, according to Fortune, 78 per cent of the business leaders who responded to its poll would vote for Mr. Bush, 11 per cent for Mr. Clinton, and four per cent for Mr. Perot.

More than half said Mr. Perot lacked political experience and 19 per cent said he would not be able to handle Congress.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Russian leadership blasts Gorbachev

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian leadership used declassified Communist Party documents Friday to step up its public campaign against former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Information Minister Mikhail Poltoranin told a news conference that documents found in party archives showed Mr. Gorbachev, who was also party boss, took special steps in 1989 to restrict emerging parliamentary opposition. A politburo decision said the first opposition faction in the Soviet parliament, led by the present Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the late Andrei Sakharov, was to be denied the right to publish its own newspaper. "We were banned by those people who claim now there is little freedom in mass media," said Mr. Poltoranin, a close Yeltsin aide who heads a commission on declassifying secret party documents. He was clearly referring to a flaring public row between Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Gorbachev.

Thailand may have new coalition

BANGKOK (R) — Thai politicians expressed confidence Friday that the leader of the opposition Democrat Party might be able to lure support out of the pro-military coalition and form a government. "The prospect is very good," Surin Pitsuwan, a senior Democrat official, told Reuters. "We are satisfied with last night's negotiations. We received a good response from a certain party that we expect to join us." Mr. Surin declined to reveal the name of the political party, but a senior official of the Chart Thai Party said two leaders of the Democrats met Thursday night with former Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan, whose Chart Thai government was overthrown by a military coup in February, 1991. Another Chart Thai source said Chuan Leekpai, leader of the Democrats, was the most acceptable figure to become prime minister.

Pope urges reconciliation in Angola

HUAMBO, Angola (R) — Pope John Paul, speaking in the killing fields of Angola's 16-year civil war, made an impassioned plea Friday for reconciliation now that the fighting is over. He called on Angolans to put behind them the strife between U.S.-backed rebels and the leftist government which killed hundreds of thousands of people and displaced more than one million. "Let there be peace for Angola, peace for Angola always," he said in an open-air mass in a sports field near Huambo, Angola's second city in the central heartland where shattered buildings still show the scars of war. "The painful period of destruction is now behind us forever. Overcome the temptation to prolong the armed conflict, source of ruin and needless suffering. Let the time of reconstruction begin now," he said. The Pope began his week-long trip to Angola Thursday, meeting with President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, rebel leader Jonas Savimbi and leaders of other emerging political parties.

U.S. considers troop cuts abroad

WASHINGTON (R) — Democrats pressed proposals in the House of Representatives to cut huge U.S. budget deficits by forcing allies to either pay more for U.S. troops or lose some of them. One proposal would cut \$3.5 billion off a \$274 billion annual defence authorisation bill before the House, either by withdrawing some of the U.S. troops from Europe, Japan and South Korea or getting more financial help from those allies. Other proposals would bring home 140,000 of the 350,000 U.S. troops around the world, or reduce the 236,000 U.S. troops in Europe to 100,000 at the end of 1995. Votes were expected later Wednesday night. "This country, many many months after the total collapse of the Communist threat, continues to spend tens of billions of dollars every year to protect our wealthy allies from a threat that no longer exists," argued Representative Barney Frank. The Massachusetts Democrat said the House must decide whether to reduce U.S. government budget deficits entirely with American taxpayer sacrifices or allies' sacrifices as well.

U.S. experts suggest U.N. sanctions to force N. Korean nuclear compliance

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. experts skeptical of North Korea's renunciation of atomic weapons said it could take United Nations sanctions to force the Communist regime to submit to inspections and give up its nuclear plans.

But one specialist said the West should prepare for better relations with one of the world's last hardline Communist governments. And new evidence obtained by the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency from North Korea suggests that Pyongyang is a long way from producing a nuclear bomb, an IAEA spokesman said in Austria.

Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, said in a report Thursday that U.N. inspectors now in North Korea should be

able to locate enough undeclared plutonium to fuel between 6 and 13 bombs the size of the one that the United States dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945.

This conclusion comes from various published and leaked estimates of U.S. intelligence monitoring of an alleged processing operation at Yongbyon, North of Pyongyang, Mr. Milhollin said in the report discussed at a news conference sponsored by the Arms Control Association, a U.S. private nonpartisan organisation.

Mr. Milhollin, in the report, urged the U.N. International Atomic Energy Administration break with its traditional policy of confidentiality about inspections.

"If the inspectors are not satisfied with North Korean cooperation, they should publicly protest... The world would then rally

behind the inspectors and force North Korea to fulfill its obligations," he said.

Inspectors should demand that the Communist government hand over the plutonium, and if North Korea refuses, it will be in violation of the non-proliferation treaty and subject to sanctions, said Mr. Milhollin.

South Korean diplomat Ahn Ho-Young, at the news conference, said it could take continuing diplomatic pressure from the United States, Japan and Russia to persuade North Korea to meet all required verification conditions. These include proposed reciprocal inspections by North and South Korea far more thorough than IAEA inspections but which the two Korean governments have not yet agreed on, he said.

Sharp focus last month by a meeting in Virginia of the Business Council, a group of 100 active and 100 retired chief executive officers (CEOs).

In media briefings, several council members said they thought Mr. Perot lacked one of the most important characteristics of a president — a willingness to compromise.

Such feelings were spelt out by one of the CEOs who responded to the Fortune poll, Edward Brandon, chairman of the National City Corp. of Ohio.

"He (Perot) would make a superb benevolent dictator but that's not our system," Fortune quoted him as saying.

Newspaper accounts have portrayed Mr. Perot as a man who ran the company he founded — Electronic Data Systems — with an iron fist, to the extent of demanding that employees wear their hair short and adhere to a strict dress code.

If elections were held now, according to Fortune, 78 per cent of the business leaders who responded to its poll would vote for Mr. Bush, 11 per cent for Mr. Clinton, and four per cent for Mr. Perot.

More than half said Mr. Perot lacked political experience and 19 per cent said he would not be able to handle Congress.

Japanese troops to head for Cambodia soon

TOKYO (R) — Japanese peacekeeping troops will head for Cambodia just as soon as controversial legislation clears parliament, the government's top spokesman said Friday.

Welcoming the passage of a Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) bill by a key committee, chief cabinet spokesman Koichi Kato said the first overseas deployment of Japanese troops since World War II was just around the corner.

"We plan to contribute (troops) to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) as soon as possible," he told reporters.

After the overnight panel vote removed its biggest obstacle to the bill, designed to allow Japan to contribute a 2,000-member army unit to U.N. peacekeeping operations, was almost assured of passage in the 252-seat upper house.

A full upper house session was expected to be convened late Friday or early Saturday, but Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's government faced the likelihood that opposition parties would use a whole range of filibustering tactics to delay a final vote.

Socialists and Communists have argued in parliament for weeks that the bill contravened Japan's post-1945 "peace constitution," and was causing alarm in neighbouring Asian countries where vivid memories remain of Japanese military aggression in the 1930s and 1940s.

An indignant Socialist Party, the largest opposition group which had waged a guerrilla war in the upper house PKO Committee to delay a vote, vowed to use all methods to block the measure.

"We regard the bill's passage in the committee as invalid," said Makoto Tanabe, Socialist Party chairman. "And we're going to fight this bill with whatever it takes."

Government spokesman Kato said one role of Japanese peacekeepers in Cambodia would be to demonstrate to Asian countries that "we are not going to act the way we did (before 1945)."

European states sign arms control pact

OSLO (AP) — Pledging to follow through with the Kremlin's arms control commitments, Russia and other former Soviet republics Friday signed a historic treaty to slash tanks, artillery and other non-nuclear weapons.

"We are partners now," said Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg at the signing ceremony between NATO nations and their former Warsaw Pact adversaries.

Russia and seven other former Soviet republics signed the conventional armed forces in Europe (CFE) accord, helping ease Western fears about the fate of the tens of thousands of weapons stockpiled by the once-mighty superpower.

Mr. Stoltenberg said the ceremony "sets the stage for full implementation of the treaty."

The pact was signed in November 1990 by the 16 nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Soviet Union and five of its former allies in the Warsaw Pact. But with the breakup of the once-mighty superpower, it never went into

effect. "This is an important step for our common security and the future of arms control, disarmament and confidence-building measures," NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said before the ceremony.

The signing ceremony was held on the sidelines of a meeting of a special security forum bringing together nearly three-dozen foreign ministers of the NATO nations and their former foes.

The ceremony was delayed for 30 minutes by a sharp discussion of the ethnic conflict between the former Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan, said U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger.

Foreign ministers from both newly independent nations attended the session.

Mr. Eagleburger said the talks "went back and forth" over how much detail to include about the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh. "But they agreed in the end as always," he said.

Nagorno-Karabakh is an enclave mainly populated by Armenians but controlled by Azerbaijan.

In the final statement, the ministers said they were "profoundly disturbed by the escalation in the fighting, loss of life, suffering and extensive destruction in the crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh and beyond."

They gave their backing to a proposal to send civilian observers to the region under the auspices of the OSCE-led Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

The special security forum, the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, has targeted the ethnic dispute as an issue it would like to help resolve peacefully.

Before the meeting, Mr. Woerner met with his arms around the ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia, encouraging them to talk to each other.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said at the meeting, "We cannot accept that inside the CSCE and (the NATO security forum) a conflict is solved with military means."

Mr. Woerner said he was not sure if the ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia would be able to join the fray after the convention.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton will be formally nominated at summer conventions.

Mr. Clinton, whose candidacy was nearly forgotten in questions at the news conference, said in a later television interview, "frankly, I was relieved not to be mentioned at that press conference tonight because it was so much more about politics than substance."

Mr. Clinton accused news media of dealing with Mr. Perot by "pumping him up" without pinning him down on issues.

Mr. Bush, in an opening statement at the news conference, tried to focus on a repetition of his call for a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. constitution, but most of the reporters' questions were about politics.

Mr. Bush defended his environmental record and said that critics at the Earth Summit in Brazil will not sway his policy against a tough global warming treaty. He said he is afraid such a treaty would cost American jobs.

"I'm not going to forget the American family, and if they don't understand that in Rio, too bad."

The president also defended his record on the Gulf war, which Mr. Perot has criticised, as well as

COLUMN

"Magic" Johnson, wife have baby boy

LOS ANGELES (R) — Basketball superstar Earvin "Magic" Johnson, who is infected with the AIDS virus, and his wife Earletha had a baby boy on Thursday night, doctors said. The doctors at the Los Angeles Hospital, where the baby was born said on local television there was very little chance that the child, whom they said would be named Earvin Johnson III, carried the deadly AIDS virus. Earletha Johnson has tested negative for the disease. The doctors did not say at which hospital the baby was born and there was no word on when the infant would undergo a blood test to see whether he carried the human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS. The Los Angeles Lakers star married his 32-year-old wife last September and two months later, in an announcement that shook the United States, said he was retiring from professional basketball because he had HIV. Johnson reportedly offered to leave his wife to ensure she and the baby she was then expecting did not catch the AIDS virus, but she persuaded him to stay with her.

Diana tried to take her own life — paper

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana tried to take her own life with a drugs overdose after being driven to the depths of despair by her marriage to her to the throne Prince Charles, the Daily Mail newspaper said Friday. The incident, six years ago, was "an agonised cry for help," palace insiders told the newspaper. The future queen telephoned her husband who rushed to her side and there was no serious damage from the drugs. The story, says the Daily Mail, is in a new book, Diana: A Princess And Her Troubled Marriage, by Nicholas Davies, which is due to be published next month in America. "It gives details of the overdose of Paracetamol when she took a number of pills after a blazing telephone row with her husband," the newspaper says in a front-page splash. The princess, now 30, was "under severe emotional and psychological strain" at the time, said palace sources quoted in the report. Rumours of a rift between the 43-year-old prince and his wife has been a tabloid staple for years, but speculation has grown in recent months that their 11-year-old marriage, like that of other young royals, is heading for the rocks. The palace, as is usual with any royal gossip, remained silent Friday about the new book.

Choice on Elvis stamp due soon

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (R) — A closely-watched election campaign comes to a close Thursday when the U.S. Postal Service announces the people's choice for an Elvis Presley commemorative stamp. The service will unveil the new stamp at a ceremony Thursday morning at Graceland, Presley's home in this southern city. The late singer's ex-wife Priscilla Presley is scheduled to open a sealed envelope containing the winning stamp at about 7:30 a.m. (1130 GMT). Earlier this year, the U.S. Postal Service asked its customers to choose between two possible versions of the Elvis stamp, one showing a young, thin Elvis Presley at the time of his early hits, Heartbreak Hotel, and Blue Suede Shoes. The other version of the stamp shows a heavier, older Elvis in a sequined, spangled white jumpsuit at the time of his huge success as a Las Vegas headliner. For the first time in its history, the U.S. Postal Service issued ballots to patrons asking them to vote for one version of the stamp. The postal service said it received 1,128,923 ballots.

Survey: Americans still fighting weight problem

WASHINGTON (R) — Americans are exercising more than ever, watching what they eat — but still losing the battle of the bulge, according to a survey of health practices. While 37 per cent of adults work out strenuously at least three days a week, the highest level ever, nearly two-thirds of Americans are overweight, according to a survey by Prevention magazine. And, though Americans have cut back on foods high in fat and cholesterol since the poll was started in 1983, the number of overweight adults has risen five per cent in that time. Aside from the bad news about weight, the survey found that, overall, Americans are taking better care of themselves than at any time in the past nine years.